

# Bavarian News

## HOHENFELS Keeping it local

Customers have the power to bring goods and services to the community, officials say

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## ANSBACH

### More than able

Three students overcome immense odds while working for the garrison as part of the Workforce Recruitment Program

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## GARMISCH

### Speaking out

FMWR Covenant, new playground are hot topics at a recent Garmisch Town Hall

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## SCHWEINFURT

### Iron ... persons

After an intense 12 weeks of training, two Schweinfurt Soldiers are all “Iron”

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### Patriot Day

Lace up those sneakers for MWR’s 9-11 Freedom Run at the Main Post Physical Fitness Center, Sept. 11, at 9:11 a.m. Several other garrisons and organizations will host additional events to commemorate this special occasion.

See pages 10-11.

### Duty bound

Voting is one of those items that takes a backseat when Soldiers and families move overseas; the Federal Voting Assistance Program has solutions for fulfilling those civic duties.

See page 2.

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# Building, bridging, breaching

172nd forges regional training partnerships with the Bundeswehr

Story and photos by  
**Sgt. Charles D. Crail**  
*172nd Infantry Brigade  
PublicAffairs*

In World War II, they dashed across the Ludendorff Bridge under heavy enemy fire, breaching the final obstacle and stabbing into the heart of the Third Reich, symbolically marking the end of the war in Europe.

Today, they cross a different bridge erected by a partner unit from the German Bundeswehr who, just two short decades ago, began building a bridge to unite the two halves of Germany’s divided military.

The 9th Engineer Battalion, 172nd Infantry Brigade, and the 701st Panzer Pioneer Battalion displayed their ability to work hand-in-hand for distinguished visitors, Aug. 24, by conducting a bridge-building exercise in Grafenwoehr.

The 172nd Inf. Bde led a seven-unit officers’ professional development class, which served as the structural support of the partnership capabilities training.

Observers of the training included Minister of Defense of Germany Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg and Philip D. Murphy, U.S. ambassador to Germany.

“This is all very impressive,” said Guttenberg while



Soldiers of the 172nd Infantry Brigade and 701st Panzer Pioneer Battalion meet on a bridge constructed in Grafenwoehr during training, Aug. 24.

speaking to a group of American and German Soldiers at the base of the expansion bridge.

It was a simple assessment that was not lost on the base level Soldiers and leaders.

“It has been a great chance for us to build a partnership with the Bundeswehr,” said Sgt. William Satchell, squad leader, 9th Eng. Bn., 172nd Inf. Bde. “The most rewarding aspect for me is to get the chance to train with them and learn about their culture.”

The partnership training between the 172nd and 701st began with the leadership sitting down to discuss how best to bring the units and their capabilities together.

“We decided to start the training with a barbecue,”



Dignitaries view 172nd Infantry Brigade and 701st Panzer Pioneer Battalion Soldiers during the partnership training, Aug. 24.

said Lt. Col. Kurt Dannenberg, commander, 701st Panzer Pioneer Bn. “We wanted to integrate the units, not just at the officer level, but also at the Soldier level.”

The integration at the Soldier level was the key to the success of the training, Lt. Col. Jayson Gilberti, commander, 9th Eng. Bn., 172nd Inf. Bde., said.

The five days of partner-

ship training are focusing on the “three Bs” of combat engineering: building, bridging and breaching, Gilberti added.

Whether the training involves breaching charges, live-fire training or building a bridge to drive a 70-ton M1A1 Abrams tank over a river, the engineers from both nations shared

See PARTNERSHIP, page 21

# Contract key for off-post housing

Story and photo by  
**Molly Hayden**  
*Staff Writer*

A home provides security, comfort and shelter from the elements and the outside world, regardless of location. Nevertheless, trading in the comfort of one’s home for a move overseas can add stress. The checklist, packing, re-checking and the nagging feeling that something, or worse, someone, has been forgotten, are all part of the process.

Arming oneself with information regarding relocation services and German laws will ease the transition to a new surrounding and open up a wealth of opportunity to explore neighborhoods within the German community.

Counselors from the Community Homefinding, Relocation and Referral Services (CHRRS) Office, most commonly referred to as the “Housing Office” provide limited assistance with the location of off-post rentals as well as explanation of lease and inspection requirements.

All new military arrivals and those who are changing their residence within the local area must report to the

**Making the transition from the United States to living overseas can be challenging. Counselors from the Community Homefinding, Relocation and Referral Services Office can provide assistance to make that transition smoother.**

CHRRS office before entering into any rental or lease agreement for off-post housing. This is necessary to ensure families do not inadvertently choose housing which would conflict with the Department of Defense policy regarding fair housing or expose themselves to environment or health hazards. Many will find themselves lost in the historical Bavarian architecture with slanted walls and gingerbread siding, but locating a “dream house” on the economy lends itself to a learning curve. Many houses are rented sans kitchen cabinets and appliances and closets for



storage are rare.

Delving into this new culture may bring apprehension.

“Most of the insecurities come from not knowing and many times it is due to the language barrier,” said Attorney-Advisor Meggy Benkert, chief of Host Nation Law with the 7th U.S. Army Joint Multinational Training Command Office of the Staff Judge Advocate. “Asking simple questions will help. The answers are available.”

Affiliation with a German landlord may be a first for many, but the essence

See HOUSING, page 21

## Defender 6 sends Committee resolves 27 AFAP issues

I have always said you can either read history or make it. Many in our workforce have made important history by asking the three fundamental questions: Are we doing the right things? Are we doing things right? What are we missing?

These questions compelled the workforce to provide valuable feedback that helps us sustain the Army Family Covenant. Because of your voice and the Army’s commitment to taking care of Soldiers, civilians and families, you have added to the 27-year history of the Army Family Action Plan’s quality-of-life (QOL) improvements, enabling us to do the right things the right way, and fix things that were missing.

One of the greatest achievements of the recent AFAP General Officer Steering Committee (GOSC) is resolving 27 of 40 quality of life issues. The GOSC, composed of Department of Defense officials, Army leaders and field representatives, reviewed some tough issues that require resources, legislation and policy changes. In the end, the resolutions expanded Soldier entitlements and civilian employment; enhanced medical and family support; and improved facilities and relocation services for the Soldiers and civilians who support our nation, and the families who support them.

See AFAP, page 2

## Bavarian News sets the DFAC record straight

*Staff Report*

On page 1 in the Aug. 18 edition of the *Bavarian News*, “Local DFACs rise to the top,” by Trecia A. Wilson, the winner of the 2010 Installation Management Command Europe Philip A. Connolly Awards Program for excellence in Army food service for the large facility was misidentified.

The winner was the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Main Dining Facility, not the Sgt. Maj. Hickey Dining Facility as stated in the article.

The entire *Bavarian News* staff deeply regrets this error.

## IN THIS EDITION

### Combat Outpost

Soldiers from 3-4th Inf. become the first to conduct 360-degree training

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### Oktoberfest

Grab your lederhosen and dirndls and bask in the Bavarian culture

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### Too fat to fight?

A group of retired leaders feels America’s obesity is a security threat

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## Bavarian News

**Commander, U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr**  
Col. Vann Smiley

**Public Affairs Officer**  
Kim Gillespie  
kim.c.gillespie@eur.army.mil  
DSN 475-8103, CIV 09641-83-8103

**Managing Editor**  
Jeremy S. Buddemeier  
jeremy.buddemeier@eur.army.mil  
DSN 475-7113, CIV 09641-83-7113

Trecia A. Wilson  
trecia.wilson@eur.army.mil  
DSN 475-8103, CIV 09641-83-7775

**Grafenwoehr Correspondent**  
Molly Hayden  
molly.hayden@eur.army.mil  
DSN 475-8886, CIV 09641-83-8886

**Garmisch Correspondent**  
John Reese  
william.john.reese@eur.army.mil  
DSN 440-3701, CIV 08821-750-3701

**Schweinfurt Correspondents**  
Eva Bergmann, Nathan Van Schaik and Jasmine Morales  
eva.nina.bergmann@eur.army.mil  
nathan.vanschaik@eur.army.mil  
jasmine.morales@eur.army.mil  
DSN 354-1400, CIV 09721-96-1400

**Hohenfels Correspondent**  
Kristin Bradley  
kristin.bradley@eur.army.mil  
DSN 466-4917, CIV 09472-83-4917

**Ansbach Correspondent**  
Ronald Toland  
ron.toland@eur.army.mil  
DSN 468-1600, CIV 09811-83-1600

**Advertising:** Retail advertising and classifieds, www.milcom.de, e-mail: ads@milcom.de.

**Address:** U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Public Affairs  
Attn: Bavarian News  
Unit 28130, APO AE 09114

We want to hear from you!

The *Bavarian News* welcomes articles from Army organizations and announcements from the general public about events of interest to the military community.

If you have newsworthy ideas or stories you'd like to submit, coordinate with the managing editor at 475-7113, or e-mail jeremy.buddemeier@eur.army.mil. Prior coordination is mandatory.

The editorial deadline for articles and announcements is noon on Tuesday, the week prior to the publication date. Publication dates can be found at [www.milcom.de](http://www.milcom.de).

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Water Tower art by Dane Gray

# AFAP seeks solutions for community

Continued from page 1

The AFAP is a year-round process that begins at the installation or unit level and is the pre-eminent means for commanders at all levels to learn of and seek solutions for the concerns of their communities. Currently, the Army is the only service with a program like AFAP.

Because of your voice, the Army is able to dedicate child and youth spaces to accommodate our special needs children at Child, Youth and School Services (CYSS) facilities. Garrison commanders now have the authority to designate areas within their community for immediate special needs child care. This resolution supports Soldier and family well-being.

Our pledge to improve family readiness is evident in the resolution of issue No. 562, an efficient and seamless delivery of family support services with Army One Source. This is a significant approach to reaching out to families. Information about Army Family programs, health care benefits, education and recreation is available online at [www.myarmyonesource.com](http://www.myarmyonesource.com), and is easily accessible by Soldiers and families -- regardless of geographic location. This one-stop-shop for Army information is available for members of the active and reserve components.

We are ensuring excellence in schools through an online, one-on-one tutoring service for Army affiliated students. Family members in grades K-12 can receive live online assistance with math, science, language, and introductory college-level courses. This worldwide service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week at [www.tutor.com](http://www.tutor.com).

Providing additional support to surviving families with enhanced survivor family dental benefits was also attained. Surviving children can now maintain coverage in the Tricare Dental Plan through age 21,



We have made great strides, but the committee agreed that six AFAP recommendations cannot be resolved because of resource constraints, lack of legislative support, or other factors. However, we decided to continue pursuing seven agenda items, such as increasing weight allowances for relocating families and boosting medical retirement pay for some disabled Soldiers.

Above all, the AFAP continues to turn possibilities into realities. Since the first AFAP conference in 1983, we have established standards for child care, increased single Soldier programs, granted paternity leave for new military fathers, and expanded educational benefits for families.

This grassroots process identifies and elevates the most significant QOL issues that affect Soldiers, retirees, civilians and families. Information provided through the AFAP process gives commanders and leaders insight into current satisfaction detractors, QOL needs, and expectations of the Army community. Leaders use the information to effect changes that improve standards of living and support programs. These changes foster a satisfied, informed, and resilient Army community.

We are entering a new era in AFAP. As the assis-

tant chief of staff for Installation Management (AC-SIM), I am committed to ensuring all recommendations are thoroughly analyzed to determine if they are realistically achievable. To that end, I will be meeting with the Army staff proponents each month to analyze eight to 10 issues. I want to include the entire Army family in this process by keeping them informed of the progress of each issue. As such, I invite you to visit the Army One Source website at [www.myarmyonesource.com](http://www.myarmyonesource.com), and select the "Family Programs and Services" menu to activate the "AFAP Active Issue Search" feature. Here, you can enter keywords to find related active issues, or insert an issue number to see a specific issue. You may also search by subject area, demographic group or geographic area to see what we are doing to improve quality of life for those we serve. I will also keep you informed by publishing monthly updates and postings to my Facebook page.

I encourage you to continue asking these three fundamental questions about our programs and services: Are we doing the right things? Are we doing things right? What are we missing? If you answer "no" to the first two questions or you think we are missing something, get involved and become part of the solution for improving the Army's home -- your home.

Reading history is educational, but getting involved and making important history is an exceptional way of providing exceptional support to the Soldiers, civilians and families in our home.

*Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch*  
*Commander, Installation Management Command*

## Partnership benefits 172nd Soldiers

Gruess Gott! Being stationed in the heart of Bavaria is an immense privilege we all share. While the cultural, historical and travel opportunities are the most obvious benefits, the primary reason the 172nd Infantry Brigade, one of the largest, most capable military units in Europe, remains in Germany is to build upon strategic partnerships with the Bundeswehr and other NATO allies.

The future of conflict in the world is one of hybrid threats: threats not easily engaged by traditional or conventional means. Coalition partnership training events are fundamental to defeating the hybrid threat in any theater of operations.

To participate in these enormous binational and multinational opportunities, the 172nd Inf. Bde. is fostering direct military partnerships, not only with our Bundeswehr neighbor units, but also with nine other NATO allied militaries. These joint training partnerships are a monumental capability unique to the 172nd Inf. Bde. This training enables our Soldiers to better prepare for, fight and win the conflicts of tomorrow as a coalition.

These military-to-military partnerships also contribute to the brigade's upcoming preparation for full spectrum operations -- training that will prepare the 172nd Inf. Bde. to fight any enemy, anywhere and in any environment. The



Zachar

threat. As the second largest brigade in Europe, the 172nd was hand-picked for this task due to our manpower and our immense capability.

The 172nd Inf. Bde. is committed to more than just military cooperation -- we also want to encourage cultural exchange across linguistic and national boundaries. With that in mind, the 172nd Inf. Bde. will be hosting a community-wide event, Sept. 24, to celebrate the brigade's partnership with three local communities surrounding Grafenwoehr. This event will be colossal in scope and magnitude. There will be a local Eschenbach band, games and activities, static displays of the 172nd's vehicles, and even a children's laser-tag game using the same equipment our Soldiers train with.

The primary focus of the event is that the 172nd Inf. Bde will sign formal

partnership agreements with the cities of Eschenbach, Pressath and Kirchenthumbach. These partnerships will open doors for the more than 4,000 Soldiers and their families of the brigade to become involved in the local communities -- socially, culturally and economically. The 172nd Inf. Bde. is committed to developing long term relationships with our neighboring communities.

Warfare, as a human endeavor, is conducted with allies rather than in isolation. The allies with which we will fight, conduct humanitarian operations and deploy are here in Europe. The 172nd Inf. Bde. is taking advantage of a tremendous opportunity to gain a cultural understanding and develop joint war fighter functions.

Cooperation with our NATO allies, most notably the Bundeswehr and our local communities, strengthens the 172nd Inf. Bde., and allows us greater freedom of maneuver as we prepare to counter future threats and strategically defend our nation and its allies. Because of our massive size, skill, capability and readiness, the 172nd Inf. Bde. will fight and win whenever and wherever we are asked.

*Col. Frank Zachar*  
*Commander, 172nd Infantry Brigade*

## Absentee voting gives Soldiers options

### by Federal Voting Assistance Program

#### News Release

Q: Do I have to be registered to vote absentee?

A: Registration requirements vary from state to state. Most states and territories require registration to vote absentee. Voter registration and absentee ballot request can be done at the same time by submitting the Federal Post Card Application at [www.fvap.gov/resources/media/fpca.pdf](http://www.fvap.gov/resources/media/fpca.pdf).

If you are already registered to vote and only wish to request a ballot, you should submit your FPCA as soon as possible. It is recommended that you register to vote/request an absentee ballot in January of each year, or at least 45 days before Election Day.

Q: Where do I send my voter registration or absentee ballot request?

A: Your Voter Registration/Absentee Ballot request form must be completed, printed, signed, dated and mailed directly to your local election official. Visit [www.fvap.gov/shortcuts/where-sendfpca.html](http://www.fvap.gov/shortcuts/where-sendfpca.html) for a state-by-state listing. These officials will handle the processing and distribution of your absentee ballots and may need to contact you for further information or clarification. To facilitate this process, please provide a current email address, phone and fax number on your application.

Q: When mailing election materials to my state or territory, do I have to pay postage?

A: When mailed from any U.S. post office, U.S. embassy or consulate or APO/FPO mail facility, the hard-copy voter registration/absentee ballot form is postage-paid. To receive free postage, the online version of the form must be mailed in an envelope

printed with our postage-paid envelope template at [www.fvap.gov/resources/media/returnenvelope.pdf](http://www.fvap.gov/resources/media/returnenvelope.pdf).

You may mail the completed form in an envelope with proper postage affixed. Ensure that your form is postmarked (see postmarking instructions below) and sent to arrive before your state's specific deadline. You must pay postage if the materials are mailed from a non-U.S. postal facility.

Q: When should I receive my ballot?

A: Most states and territories begin mailing ballots 30-45 days before an election. If you have not received your ballot two weeks before the election, contact your local election official (contact information available on most state election sites. See [www.fvap.gov/reference/links.html](http://www.fvap.gov/reference/links.html)).

If you encounter problems contacting your local election

official, contact us. Always complete and return your absentee ballot regardless of when you receive it, even if you have already submitted a backup Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (explanation below). Your local election official will ensure that only one of the ballots is counted.

Q: What happens if I do not receive a ballot from my local election office?

A: If you requested an absentee ballot but have not received one close to Election Day, you can still vote by using the backup Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot.

To be eligible to use this backup ballot, you must:

Be absent from your voting residence;

Have applied for a regular ballot early enough so the request is received by the appropriate local election official not later than the State deadline; or the date that is 30

See VOTING, page 20

## 8 Soldiers punished for various offenses

by JMTC Office of the Staff Judge Advocate

#### News Release

At a general court-martial, Aug. 18-20, Sgt. Christian Gutierrez, HHC, 7th U.S. Army JMTC, was found guilty, contrary to his plea, of one specification of aggravated sexual contact of a child under the age of 12 (Article 120, UCMJ). An officer panel sentenced Gutierrez to be reprimanded, to be reduced to the grade of E-3, and to be confined for a period of 179 days.

At a special court-martial, Aug. 3, Pvt. Jeffrey L. Jarrell, 3rd Squadron (Rear, Provisional), 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, plead guilty to one specification of absence without leave (Article 86), one specification of disrespecting a noncommissioned officer (Article 91), one specification of failure to obey a lawful order for violating the barracks visitation policy (Article 92), one specification of dereliction of duty (Article 92), one specification of assault consummated by battery (Article 128), one specification of drunk and disorderly conduct (Article 134), and three specifications of breaking restriction (Article 134).

The military judge sentenced Jarrell to forfeit \$964 pay per month for two months, to be confined for 45 days, and to receive a bad-conduct discharge. In accordance with Jarrell's pretrial agreement, the convening authority will disapprove the punitive discharge.

At a special court-martial

See COURTS, page 20

### Energy tips

**Check on your major appliances routinely. Overheating is a sign of defects or too much energy use. Fix or replace them with EnergyStar products.**



The world below

# ODR explores the Bismarck Grotto labyrinth

Story and photos by  
**Molly Hayden**  
*Staff Writer*

Sgt. Daniel Martin, Regimental Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, began a rope descent down a vertical shaft into a hollow in the earth approximately 30 kilometers from Vilseck, recently.

A small group of Soldiers and family members followed. They felt a cold chill when their feet hit the ground.

“It’s creepy in here,” said a voice in the dark.

Headlamps turned on one by one and reflected off the walls of the Bismarck Grotto. Limestone rocks gave variety to the monotone complexion of the cave walls and a lonely bat hung overhead.

“This is the largest cave in Bavaria,” said Lauren Murton, a recreation assistant at Rose Barracks’ Outdoor Recreation, as the cavers began their exploration.

“This particular cave is very interesting because it’s an actual spelunking experience,” said Murton, adding that the lack of paved paths and specific routes lends itself to a more exciting adventure.

“It’s not your typical tourist excursion,” she said.

For the next few hours, attendees climbed and descended cave walls, walked in crouched positions, crawled over rough rocks and dirt on their hands and knees, twisted in and out of passageway openings and squeezed through various obstacles using tight belly crawls.

Each participant moved through the cave in a diverse manner — no two cavers handled the obstacle in exactly the same way.



Soldiers and community members begin their descent into the depths of the Bismarck Grotto.

**The next caving outing is scheduled for Oct. 2.  
Call Rose Barracks’ Outdoor Recreation for information and additional adventures at DSN 476-2563, CIV 09662-83-2563.**

“We alter the day for all skill levels,” said Murton. “It can be challenging, but it definitely worth a try.”

Outdoor Recreation offers an array of programs for Soldiers, family and community members to boost adrenaline, polish skills, strengthen muscles and build teamwork.

From skydiving and bungee jumping to kayaking and rock climbing, an adventure awaits every member of the family.

“There are a few tight spots in the cave, so this may not be the sport for all,” said Murton. “But (Outdoor Recreation) offers numerous other activities; we really do have something for everyone.”

The sky was still light as partici-

pants climbed their way back up to the surface, with the aid of a rope and Murton on belay.

Emerging from the dark cavern, eyes involuntarily squinted in the bright sun, attempting to adjust. Participants brushed dirt off of their clothes and rested on the ground, reminiscing about the adventure of the day.

“I loved every moment of it,” said Marshall Krupp, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion. “It was totally thrilling to rappel under the ground and explore dark tunnels.”

Outdoor Recreation offers a unique caving experience in a safe, controlled environment. It’s a primitive experience — but that’s the point.



Spc. Brad Nortune, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, rappels into the Bismarck Grotto for a cave exploration outing with Outdoor Recreation, recently.

# IMCOM looking for team members to join DoD fitness challenge



Photo by Jeremy S. Buddemeier

Runners prepare themselves mentally prior to the start of the 10-Miler qualifier race at U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr, recently. Installation Management Command has formed the “Army IMCOM” team to encourage people to participate in the Department of Defense’s “Leap Into Fall” Fitness Challenge.

by IMCOM  
Public Affairs  
*News Release*

SAN ANTONIO — The Department of Defense’s “Leap Into Fall” Fitness Challenge kicked off Aug. 16, challenging DoD personnel to include more physical activity in their daily routine.

Each participant is challenged to get at least 30 minutes of physical activity at least five days a week. The DoD goal is to log more than 1.5 million hours of physical activity by the end of the challenge on Oct. 31.

Civilians are encouraged to assess their emotional, spiritual, social and family fitness with the Global Assessment Tool (survey). The GAT, located at [www.army.mil/CSF](http://www.army.mil/CSF), is part of the Comprehensive Soldier Fitness program. The vision of the CSF is to create an Army of balanced, healthy, self-confident Soldiers, families and Army civilians whose resilience and total fitness enables them to thrive in an era of high operational tempo and persistent conflict.

The Army’s Installation Management Command is also encouraging its workforce to complete the GAT survey prior to joining the challenge. The tool allows participants to assess themselves on the dimensions of emotional, spiritual, social, and family fitness at [www.army.mil/CSF](http://www.army.mil/CSF). The survey is available to Soldiers,

Army civilians and family members.

Challenge contestants may choose from more than 100 activities, including a wide range of sports and games - even Nintendo Wii Sports. The emphasis is not on what participants do, but on working toward improved health and readiness in whatever way they find fun and motivating.

The Fitness Challenge is part of a yearlong DoD employee wellness campaign that aims to increase employee awareness of and commitment to the elements of a healthy lifestyle, including physical activity. The DoD challenge is linked to the President’s Challenge, which began as a national youth fitness test and is now a series of programs designed to help improve anyone’s activity level.

Installation Management Command has formed the “Army IMCOM” team to encourage command members to participate, their health permitting. To join the team, go to [www.presidentschallenge.org](http://www.presidentschallenge.org) and use the group ID number 90878.

The website also has information on how to register as an individual or start a group.

DoD personnel who log in at least 30 hours of physical activity from August through October will receive certificates of achievement, with special recognition going to the three individuals and groups who record the most hours over the three-month period.



# Hiking safely takes just minutes to plan

by Mollie Miller  
*U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center*

As the summer wanes, thousands will lace up their hiking boots, swing their packs on to their backs and hit nature trails around the country to experience the beauty of Europe’s great outdoors.

Whether a summer trip into the great outdoors is as short as a few hours or as long as a week, there are three steps every adventurer should take before their boots ever touch the trail, according to Tracey Russell, a Safety Specialist at the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center.

“If you plan to hit the trails this summer, make a plan, pack a bag and bring a buddy,” Russell said. “It takes a little time to get ready for a safe trip but the extra time now will save a lot of time later by avoiding illness, injury or loss.”

The best way to prevent an accident while on a nature adventure is to simply stay out of trouble in the first place, according to the Boy Scouts of America Guide to Safe Scouting.

The Guide to Safe Scouting notes that staying out of trouble while out in the wild requires planning and a good understanding of the environment.

“Making a plan gets the hiker thinking about all the possible things that could happen during an outdoor adventure,” Russell said.

A good hiking plan will include information like departure and return times, emergency phone numbers, the hike route and locations and phone numbers for medical assistance, lodges and park rangers.

The plan should also include a list of equipment needed for the outdoor adventure. A good plan should also include information about current weather conditions and what to expect during the hike or campout. If, in the planning process, a hiker or camper discovers that severe weather is forecasted for the area, reschedule the trip — bad weather can be a hiker’s biggest enemy.

“You do not want to be caught in the forest in the middle of a lightning storm,” Russell said.

Visit our official U.S. Army Grafenwoehr Facebook page.  
Look up “U.S. Army Grafenwoehr” using Facebook’s page search engine.



Commentary

Suicide prevention takes coordinated effort

by Sgt. Maj. Cameron Porter  
21st TSC Public Affairs

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, and within the ranks of the Army leaders are becoming more and more engaged at every level. But is that enough, and do they really know what to look for and what to do?

Knowing the telltale signs of someone who may be feeling suicidal is very important. Most suicides and suicide attempts are reactions to intense feelings of loneliness, worthlessness, hopelessness, helplessness and guilt. Leaders must take a personal interest and know what is going on in their Soldiers' lives in order to recognize these signs. Promoting a command climate that encourages and enables Soldiers to seek help is also very important. Belittling Soldiers who seek behavioral health assistance and perpetuating the stigma associated with thoughts of suicide is not acceptable and should not be tolerated.

Instead, leaders must ensure their Soldiers are properly educated and aware of the agencies and programs available for assistance. Leaders should foster a sense of responsibility in their Soldiers to provide watchful care and support to their peers, and leaders should provide support for participation in suicide awareness and prevention activities and training.

The goal of suicide prevention is



a continuum of awareness, assessments, and education and training. Prevention refers to all efforts that build resilience, reduce stigma and build awareness of suicide and related behaviors. Establishing a culture that reinforces help-seeking behavior as an appropriate and accepted part of being a responsible Soldier is an important goal of suicide prevention and something that leaders must strive to achieve.

The acronym A.C.E. is easy to remember and will act as a guide for leaders when dealing with Soldiers who display the warning signs.

The A stands for ask. Ask the question "Are you thinking about hurting or killing yourself?" Don't be afraid to talk about suicide, and be willing to allow the individual a chance to express his or her feelings openly.

The C stands for care. Understand

**Preventing suicide is everyone's responsibility. Visit the following websites to learn what you can do to prevent suicide:**

- [www.realwarriors.net](http://www.realwarriors.net)
- [www.afterdeployment.org](http://www.afterdeployment.org)
- [www.armyg1.army.mil/hr/suicide](http://www.armyg1.army.mil/hr/suicide)
- [www.behavioralhealth.army.mil](http://www.behavioralhealth.army.mil)
- [www.army.mil/media/amp/?bctid=114827147001](http://www.army.mil/media/amp/?bctid=114827147001)

that your Soldier may be in pain. Use active listening to assist and provide relief. Try to keep the individual calm and the situation under control as much as possible. And remove any lethal means, such as weapons or pills.

E stands for escort. Get that Soldier to a chaplain or behavioral health professional immediately and never leave the Soldier alone. A suicidal person needs immediate attention. This is critical and will help to save his or her life.

Some helpful websites that leaders can use to obtain more information include the deputy chief of staff, G-1 suicide prevention ([www.armyg1.army.mil/hr/suicide](http://www.armyg1.army.mil/hr/suicide)), Military OneSource ([www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com)), Army Behavioral Health ([www.behavioralhealth.army.mil](http://www.behavioralhealth.army.mil)), and AKO Suicide Prevention Resources and Services (<https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/334798>).

*Editor's Note: Starting today, the USAG Grafenwoehr website ([www.grafenwoehr.army.mil](http://www.grafenwoehr.army.mil)) hosts the "Shoulder to Shoulder, I Will Never Quit on Life" video, and provides access to links for Soldiers and families seeking help. USAG Grafenwoehr will also host programs and activities, such as Sept. 18 FMWR walk/run event, a series of weekly religious services with the theme, "Follow Me: An Invitation to Resiliency," at the Rose Barracks and Main Post chapels, and more. Tune in to garrison media for more specifics.*



Photo by Aref Arianta

**Workers install several of the 1,000 square meters of photovoltaic panels on Building 244, recently. The project was the largest installation of photovoltaic panels at a European facility and will produce 270 megawatt hours of electricity each year.**

Graf becomes energy role model

*Staff Report*

This month the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr began construction of one of its largest photovoltaic systems. Building 244 at Gate 3 received the largest photovoltaic system at a European facility. Four more buildings will follow.

The term "photovoltaic" refers to a method of generating electrical power by converting solar radiation into electricity. Photovoltaic power generation employs solar panels comprised of a number of cells containing a photovoltaic material such as monocrystalline or polycrystalline silicon.

"With the completion of these five buildings, the USAG Grafenwoehr will become the renewable energy role model among Army installations in Europe," said Aref Arianta, USAG Grafenwoehr DPW energy manager. "However, this is not the end of our plan for renewable energy. We will continue to transition to nonfossil fuel energy."

These five projects will produce 270 megawatt hours of electricity each year.

"We will feed this electricity into the public grid and realize higher revenue than using it," Arianta added. "The German renewable energy ordinance mandates utility companies buy electricity produced by photovoltaic at three times of the price we are paying for. This will not only make our USAG as the largest producer of renewable electricity, but also will put us in the first position by materializing the German renewable energy financial benefits."

Once these projects are completed, community members will be able to read through a display that monitors the energy output of these systems at the respective building's entrance.

*Editor's Note: Currently the price for feeding photovoltaic-generated electricity into the grid is 30 eurocents per kilowatt hour, while the garrison pays 10 euro cents per kilowatt hour to purchase electricity.*

Strength in Diversity



Photo by Jasmine Morales

**Cheryl Richardson, a customer service representative for the First Sergeants Barracks Initiative (FSBI) program in the USAG Schweinfurt military community, and Sgt. 1st Class William Armstrong of Bravo Battery, 1-77th Field Artillery, look over a request for an exception to policy.**

Richardson ensures Soldiers have a smooth transition

by Sgt. 1st Class Patrice Elmes  
and 1st Lt. Jennifer Dyrce  
18th CSSB Public Affairs

SCHWEINFURT, Germany — Cheryl Richardson, a military spouse with the 12th Chemical Company, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, plays a very important role in the daily lives of first sergeants and their Soldiers. Richardson is a customer service representative for the First Sergeants Barracks Initiative (FSBI) program who works as a single Soldier housing service representative in the U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt military community.

The goal of the FSBI is to improve barracks management by freeing up time for first sergeants to focus on the mission essential tasks for their Soldiers. Under the FSBI, the responsibility of day-to-day operations such as checking Soldiers in and out and preparing vacated rooms for new Soldiers falls on garrison employees.

Richardson, a native of Baltimore, Md., spends her time primarily assisting first sergeants and Soldiers with the assignment process and maintenance of the single Soldier barracks. In addition, she helps Soldiers of deploying and redeploying units settle into their living spaces.

"I feel like I am contributing because my

job helps to put redeploying Soldiers' minds at ease about having living space to settle back into," Richardson said.

Richardson said she has a greater understanding of how Soldiers can feel discouraged because she is married to a Soldier, and tries to help mitigate frustrations that may arise due to the challenge of moving in and out of barracks, especially once Soldiers redeploy.

"I like working in Europe and helping single Soldiers," said Richardson. "The best thing I like about my job is assisting the single Soldiers that are here without their families and making them feel as comfortable as possible."

When Richardson moved from Baltimore to North Carolina with her husband and two children she experienced extreme culture shock. That experience helped her adjust to life in Europe. She loves being able to spend time in Germany and learn about the culture.

"At first Cheryl worked as a temporary employee with the single Soldiers barracks program," said Sharron Dockerty, Richardson's immediate supervisor. "When the opportunity arose to hire her on full time at the housing division she jumped at the chance because she loves the community and considers it a privilege to live within it."

Customer Service Assessment will help improve services

Survey will be available online through Sept. 26 at [www.mymilitaryvoice.org](http://www.mymilitaryvoice.org)

by Installation  
Management Command  
*News Release*

Courteous customer service is something that can quickly change an individual's opinion and can often be more important than other factors in determining the overall satisfaction level associated with their experience.

If you are dining out and experience a delay in getting your food but the waiter is friendly and informative and the food is decent you are likely to rate your experience more positively than if the waiter was rude, neglectful or did not explain the delay. The waiter's behavior is one aspect of service.

Having someone politely, patiently, and accurately explain the process to get your household goods shipped is another example of service. Headquarters Installation Management Command cares about service and is about to release an online survey that allows you, the customer, to rate the garrison's services. This annual survey is called the Customer Service Assessment (CSA).

The survey opened Aug. 30 and runs through Sept. 26. It can be accessed by going online to [www.mymilitaryvoice.org](http://www.mymilitaryvoice.org). Anyone who uses garrison

son services is eligible to take the survey.

That means we want to hear from family members, Soldiers, civilians, retirees, contractors, leaders and anyone else who works, lives or plays on this military installation. You only need about 15 minutes to take the survey and provide HQ IMCOM and this garrison your feedback about the importance and performance of their services.

The results help shape the way services are funded and what improvements and changes will be made. Who better to help make those decisions than the people who use those services? Your voice is important. The survey allows IMCOM to analyze the voice of the customer by constituent groups, by garrison, by region and to identify trends and be proactive in adjusting services to meet customers' needs.

Help us improve USAG Grafenwoehr services by giving us your feedback. Take the Customer Service Assessment online today.

For more information on the 2010 Customer Service Assessment, contact Lisa LaLiberte, Plans, Analysis and Integration Office customer service officer, at DSN 475-8881, CIV 09641-83-8881 or e-mail [lisa.laliberte@eur.army.mil](mailto:lisa.laliberte@eur.army.mil).

Let your voice be heard!

Water conservation tips

**When washing dishes by hand, don't let the water run while rinsing. If available, fill one sink with wash water and the other with rinse water.**

**Collect the water used for rinsing fruits and vegetables, and then reuse it to water house plants, if any.**

**Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full; you can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.**

**Turning off the water while brushing your teeth can save a lot of water. Rinse razors in a filled sink rather than under running water.**



# 3-66th gives families live-fire demo

Story and photos by  
**Spc. Robert J. Holland**  
*172nd Infantry Brigade Public Affairs*

The families of 172nd Infantry Brigade received a rare opportunity when they were allowed to watch Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, perform a platoon live-fire exercise, Aug. 18.

Spouses, children, and friends were able to see firsthand what the company has been working on while in the field, 3-66th Armor Regt.'s Command Sgt. Maj. Malcolm D. Parrish, said.

"It can be hard for a Soldier to explain to his family what he does while at work and in the field," Parrish said. "They love to do what they do and for them to be able to show it off is just great."

The live-fire exercise, which included weapons systems ranging from 7.62 mm coaxial machine guns to the big 120 mm main guns on the M1A1 Abrams tank, offered the families a chance to see what they normally only hear from their homes in the surrounding communities, said Parrish.

"This was only my second time seeing this," said family member Jennifer Taylor. "It was great to see what they do."

Taylor said demonstrations like the one given help families have confidence in the training that the Soldiers have received.

Soldiers spend a lot of time away from home training, Taylor said. This helps the families understand what their Soldiers do.

"It clears up a lot of questions," Taylor said.

Mayor Konrad Merkl and other local Pressath community leaders attended the qualification during the afternoon trials.

"The United States Army has a lot of great weapons," Merkl said. "It was great to see the Soldiers in action. It was a good demonstration."

The town of Pressath and other local communities surrounding the post are officially partnering with the 172nd in a ceremony, Sept. 24, during which a partnership agreement will be signed, marking the beginning of a long term relationship between the towns and the brigade.



Families and tanks arrive at the same time for the Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, platoon live-fire exercise, Aug. 18. Spouses, children and friends were invited to watch the live-fire exercise.

**Konrad Merkl, the mayor of Pressath, reacts to the explosion of a 120 mm round during a live-fire demonstration.**



"I am glad Pressath is part of the partnership with the 172nd and other communities," Merkl said. "I think it's good for the community and good for the Army."

The immediate benefit of the day's events was clearly visible on the smiling faces of invited guests, children and adults alike.

Ian Crail, son of the one of the Soldiers present at the training, said, "This is even cooler than seeing it on TV!"

# Combat Outpost pushes Soldiers' limits

**'Leaders have to keep moving, constantly, like sharks. If they stop moving, they die.'**

Capt. Michael Filanowski, Commander, C Company, 3-4th Infantry Battalion

Story and photos by  
**Michael Beaton**  
*7th U.S. Army JMTC Public Affairs*

As the sun came-up above the Combat Outpost (COP) the Soldiers of the 3-4 Infantry repelled two small attacks by insurgents and were anticipating a third. Approximately 130 Soldiers of the battalion guarded the four-sided perimeter of the outpost. The Soldiers fought intermittently for about 10 hours to defend their position. The training, which lasted 30-hours, finished after the troops negotiated multiple battle scenarios — scenarios typical of a deployment downrange in Afghanistan.

The Joint Multinational Training Command's (JMTC's) range 201 is the U.S. Army's first 360-degree combat outpost training facility, and the 3-4 Infantry is the first unit to use it for training.

"This really happens to units," said Capt. Michael Filanowski, the commander of the "Centurions," C Company, 3-4 Inf., 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT). "Taliban or HIG fighters attempt to overrun combat outposts, and this is how we learn to defend it."

The training scenario was similar to a real-life occurrence; International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) Soldiers were attacked by Taliban at their COP in northern Afghanistan in October 2009, the attack left eight Soldiers dead, and many more injured.

According to the Department of Defense, 60 Soldiers of Bravo Troop, 3rd Squadron, 61st Cavalry, repelled an enemy force of 300 Anti-Afghan Forces (AAF) fighters. They preserved their combat outpost, and killed approximately 150 of the enemy fighters. During their five months at COP Keating, the enemy had launched approximately 47 attacks.



**Capt. Michael Filanowski, commander, C Company, 3-4th Infantry Battalion, 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, addresses his Soldiers following combat outpost live-fire training on Grafenwoehr Range 201, recently.**



The lessons learned from such examples are incorporated into pre-deployment training at the JMTC to ensure Soldiers master certain skills before they go downrange.

"It's not like we just jump into this. You know, we've been here (at Grafenwoehr) for two weeks doing range after range, M240 ranges, M-4," said Staff Sgt. Matthew Lally, Weapons Squad Leader, 3rd Platoon, C Company. "There's a lot of training that goes into this, and builds up to this COP live-fire sce-

nario."

Lally went on to recount some of the difficulties, anticipated and unanticipated.

"I think the most challenging thing is trying to keep everyone under control with their rates of fire. When they see the targets pop-up, the just want to throw-down as many rounds as they can, but they don't understand the bigger picture," he said. "They need to make sure they still have ammunition left to fight when the targets still keep

**Soldiers of the 3-4th Infantry, 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team perform combat outpost live-fire training on Grafenwoehr Range 201. The training prepared the troops for an upcoming deployment.**

coming up."

Lally said his job was to make sure the ammunition was conserved, while also making sure the crews engaged the right targets.

"There's a lot of different 'moving pieces' to an exercise like this," he said. "The scenario definitely brought all of them into play."

As the 3-4 Infantry Soldiers rallied, the sound and smoke of an attack began to build around the four sides of the COP. Word was quickly passed around the inside perimeter that this was not the beginning of another probing attack, but a full-scale assault meant to overrun the position.

During the exercise, Soldiers were forced to confront a multitude of contingencies including night assaults and suppressing enemy recon, weapons placement and tactical changes within the compound, surges ("dog-piling") on a particular angle of the COP, and securing critical communications and coordination within the command.

"This really is 360-degree training. You'll have contacts at all points of the compass," said Filanowski. "Leaders have to keep moving, constantly, like sharks. If they stop moving, they die. You have to be able move and communicate, then pass the right information back to those other units, so that everyone knows what's going on."

The major assault on the COP lasted almost four hours. When the "all-clear" was called and the weapons secured, Soldiers made their way through the low-hanging cloud of smoke to listen to their commander's assessment.

"Listen up!" said Filanowski. "You did good today — but I want to walk you through this real quick before we leave. What you learned here these last two days is going to save your life."



Photo by Maj. Joseph Buccino

**Soldiers of the 9th Engineer Battalion, 172nd Infantry Brigade, serve food to 701st Panzer Pioneer Battalion soldiers during festivities in Grafenwoehr, Aug. 21. The event kicked off the partnership training exercise between the two units.**

# Cookout kicks off partnership training

by **Spc. Robert J. Holland**  
*172nd Infantry Brigade Public Affairs*

Soldiers from the 172nd Infantry Brigade work hard while in the field but they also know the importance of balancing work with a little fun in the field to foster esprit de corps.

Soldiers from the 9th Engineer Battalion, part of the 172nd Infantry Brigade, and German soldiers from the 701st Panzer Pioneer Battalion came together in Grafenwoehr, Aug. 21, for an evening of fun, fellowship, camaraderie, and to celebrate their partnership for a multinational training exercise.

Lt. Col. Jayson Gilberti, commander, 9th En. Bn., said that the two units plan to conduct live-fire exercises, bridging exercises and demolition training. The units will also be living together during the training.

The training will focus on what Gilberti calls the "three Bs" of combat engineering; building, bridging and breaching.

"The purpose of this pig roast between the 701st Panzer Pioneer Battalion and the 9th Engineer Battalion, 172nd Infantry Brigade," said Gilberti, "is really to start building a relationship that will carry us through five days of the partnership exercises here at Grafenwoehr."

"I believe it is really important to have a good relationship between all Soldiers at all levels before we start training," Lt. Col. Kurt Dannenberg, commander, 701st Panzer Pioneer Bn., said. "Otherwise we aren't really able to cooperate on all levels"

Both the 172nd and 701st Soldiers are excited about the training and about forging new relationships with each other.

"It is definitely interesting learning more about their culture," Pvt. John Nowak, combat engineer, 9th En. Bn., said. "I am learning about their traditions and how they deal with things."

Pfc. Norman Wissner, 701st Panzer Pioneer Bn., said he is excited to be able to get to know his American counterparts.

"Partnerships are so essential," Gilberti said. "We have to build that capacity and those relations now. It's all about partnerships and fighting as multinational partners, and allies, as we move forward as one great organization."

Dannenberg echoed similar sentiments. "I am really proud to do this together with the 172nd and my battalion."

## Energy tips

- **Run your TV, VCR, PC and printer equipment over a power strip that has an on/off switch. Turn these devices off when not in use.**
- **Unplug appliances when not in use. Items plugged in continue to use electricity even if they're not in use.**
- **Building entrance doors are potential sources of heat loss. Keep them closed at all times.**



# Community honors 2 fallen 2SCR Soldiers



A Soldier pays homage to his fallen comrades during a memorial ceremony for Pfc. John E. Andrade and Paul O. Cuzzupe II at the Rose Barracks Chapel, Aug. 24.

Story and photo by  
**Molly Hayden**  
*Staff Writer*

Few seats remained empty at the Rose Barracks Chapel, Aug. 24, as numerous Soldiers, community and family members, along with German dignitaries, gathered to mourn the loss and celebrate the life of two fallen Soldiers from the 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment.

"It's a tough day for the Wolf-pack family," said Lt. Col. Bryan Denny, commander of the 3rd Squadron, 2SCR, as communicated by Maj. David McCulley, 2SCR rear detachment commander. "We say goodbye to two men that have sacrificed everything in this struggle in Afghanistan. Two men uniquely different ..."

## Pfc. John E. Andrade



Andrade

Pfc. John E. Andrade was born in San Antonio, Texas, July 3, 1991. He graduated from Cross Roads High School in 2009 and married his wife Elizabeth a few months later. Andrade joined the Army to provide a better life for his wife and their son John Andrade Jr., and reported to Initial Entry Training at Fort Benning, Ga., in August 2009.

Andrade reported to Iron Company, 2SCR, Dec. 7, 2009, where he was assigned to 2nd Squad, 2nd Platoon, Iron Company. He was assigned as a Stryker driver and deployed to Afghanistan in June 2010.

Andrade was killed in action, Aug. 7, in De Khak Chupan Turah, Afghanistan, while conducting combat operations.

"John as quiet but well liked by everyone in the Company," Capt. Shawn Herrick, commander of Iron Company as read by Capt. Ryan W. Tallant, 3rd Squadron rear detachment commander. "He had a good sense of humor and never lost his composure. He was Soldier you could depend on to do the right thing."

Andrade was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, Army Good Conduct Medal and the NATO Medal. Other accolades included National Defense Service medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Bronze service star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon and Overseas Service Ribbon.

## Pfc. Paul O. Cuzzupe II



Cuzzupe

Pfc. Paul O. Cuzzupe II was born in Kansas, Dec. 2, 1986. He grew up in Plant City, Fla., where he graduated from Armwood High School and attended college at St. Leo University.

Cuzzupe joined the Army as a private first class, July 6, 2009, and arrived to Rose Barracks, Germany, in March 2010. He was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Squadron, 2SCR.

Due to his compassionate nature, Cuzzupe was known as "Care Bear" to the other Soldiers in the medical platoon.

In June 2010, Cuzzupe deployed to Afghanistan with the rest of Ghost Company in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Though a relative newcomer to 3rd Platoon, Cuzzupe proved his mettle to his fellow warriors in a short time and quickly earned the revered nickname "doc," a testament to his special status within the ranks.

Cuzzupe was killed in action, Aug. 8, near Akhtar-Mohammad-Khar, Afghanistan, while conducting combat operations.

Capt. Mark Ross, commander of the Ghost Company, described Cuzzupe as having a "true thirst for life and a passion for his job."

Cuzzupe's awards and decorations include the National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, and the NATO Medal. Additionally, he received the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart Medal, and Combat Medic Badge, posthumously.

Both Soldiers volunteered to join the Army in time of war. They accepted the challenges and pride of serving their country and served well.

The memorial ceremony honored the fallen and ushered them into history, storied as heroes.

"Both Pfc. Andrade and Pfc. Cuzzupe are forever more linked to the Dragoons that have gone before them and made the ultimate sacrifice," said Denny. "They are forever linked arm-in-arm, hand-in-hand, to our family. We know the pride they felt; just as we now know sorrow for having lost them."

"We are proud them. Not because of how they died, but how they lived," said Denny.

## 2SCR medics get 'paws-on' training

Story and photo by  
**Sgt. Jerry Wilson**  
*2SCR Public Affairs*

ZABUL, Afghanistan — Medics from the 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment received some unique training at Forward Operating Base Lagman, Aug. 8. The troopers received a class on how to administer basic first aid to the working dogs that help provide security for Soldiers around the forward operating base.

Working dogs are used to search for explosives and other contraband around post and in vehicles and parcels coming onto the FOB that could be overlooked by the human eye. This service is run by a civilian security firm that employs several highly trained professionals who have many years of experience working in a variety of canine units. Canine units are a critical part of stemming the traffic of explosives and illegal drugs, not only on posts, but in and around the

province. These four-legged heroes provide a vital service in the ongoing mission to bring security to the people of Afghanistan.

"We are giving the medics a briefing on the fundamentals of canine first aid," explained one veteran dog handler. "This will give them a pretty good idea of how to care for our dogs if we get injured or the dog does."

In addition to learning how to recognize and treat injured dogs, the medics were taught the safest way to secure the dog if they have to render aid to its handler.

"We want them to be comfortable because if they aren't," said the instructor, "that is a big trigger to the dogs."

For most of the students, the training was as much fun as it was informative. Many found it to be a great escape from the highly stressful working environment.

"It's been really cool to work with the dogs," said Pfc. Ellen Fischer. "Practicing putting the muzzle and leash on is going to

be really helpful if we ever have to treat one of their handlers so we don't get attacked by the dogs."

After each student practiced dog handling techniques, a few brave souls volunteered to don the infamous "Bite Suit," a training tool used to teach the dogs to attack a fleeing suspect. The suit is layered with heavy padding to allow the instructor to be bitten without causing any harm.

For Spc. Sidney Norman, it was a great chance to feel like he was home again.

"I have a big dog back home that likes to jump on you," he said. "Of course, I have never had him actually latch on with his teeth."

Norman said wearing the suit was more exciting than scary.

"You would think it would be a little scary," Norman explained, "but once the dog latches on and you shift back and forth and see the dog swinging with you it's really fun and exhilarating."



Spc. Sidney Norman gets a firsthand lesson in how to take down a fleeing suspect from a canine nicknamed "the spider monkey ninja."

## ISAF CSM visits Dragoons

by **Sgt. Jerry Wilson**  
*2SCR Public Affairs*

ZABUL, Afghanistan — Troopers of the 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment along with their coalition counterparts received a visit from a very distinguished guest, recently. The Command Sgt. Maj. for the International Security Assistance Force, U.S. Forces Afghanistan North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Michael T. Hall, spent several days traveling around the Zabul Province and observing the day-to-day operations of Combined Team Zabul. After visiting the various forward operating bases and speaking with many troopers, Hall was quite optimistic about 2SCR's mission approach.

"I am very impressed with the new energy and professionalism and the new campaign plan," he said.

Hall mentioned how the Dragoons involved all of the CTZ organizations in the planning process. CTZ is focused on partnership with the Romanians, Provincial Reconstruction Team, Agriculture Development Team, government and nongovernment agencies, Afghan National Security Forces, and components of the government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to ensure enduring peace and stability in our province.

"Counterinsurgency is bringing all the factors together," Hall said. "It's bringing them all in and saying 'Look this is where we are, here's our goals we need to reach, and this is how we

think we need to do it,' then listening to their feedback."

"Most importantly it is counterinsurgency in Afghanistan, that will help us be successful," Hall said. "I am very pleased with everything I have seen in every part of Zabul so far,"

Hall said he has noticed many positive changes since his last trip to the province a few months ago.

"The city of Qalat seemed quite calm," he said. "We drove through twice in Strykers and nobody noticed us or paid any attention to us; that is a good thing. That tells us the people are not afraid that we bring violence. It's a good sign that they feel more secure, which in turn means they are going to trust their government more."

Hall said he feels 2SCR has a real grasp on the feelings of Zabul's people.

"What the command does really well," he said, "is understand the people and how far we can push ourselves out there and be successful in reading the population."

Hall's trip to CTZ was one of many he does throughout the year. He spends most of his time visiting with Soldiers on the front lines, talking with them about their mission and mentoring them in counterinsurgency fundamentals. Hall spends three to five days a week on battlefield circulation visits, taking the information he learns back to COMISAF and ISAF headquarters in order to help improve conditions for the Soldiers in the field.

## Dragoon convoy helps save local businessman's cargo

by **Sgt. Jerry Wilson**  
*2SCR Public Affairs*

ZABUL, Afghanistan — It was shaping up to be a routine Tuesday morning, Aug. 10, for the Regimental Personal Security Detail of the 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment. It was a convoy trip with the regimental commander and command sergeant major to survey the damage caused by recent flooding to several bridges within the Zabul Province. As the convoy approached bridge 1018, it encountered a rather interesting situation.

A local truck driver was transporting a load of almonds to market. While attempting to take the bypass road, the truck hit a soft patch of dirt and overturned on the embankment.

As the convoy pulled to a halt, several Afghan locals could be seen carrying large sacks of almonds up from the ravine to another truck waiting nearby — the Dragoons quickly assessed the situation and decided to lend a hand.

"It was the perfect opportunity for us to engage with the population," said the 2SCR Regimental Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Morris, "showing them that our mission is about helping people that is what coalition forces are here

to do."

Heading up the recovery mission alongside Morris was the team's resident combat engineer, U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Abdel Phipps.

"Engineers do recovery but it is usually our own," Phipps said. "I am well-versed on it because we had to do our own recovery because it was quicker than waiting for the QRF with a wrecker."

Phipps said though many of his team had only done this type of recovery mission in training, they all performed their jobs well.

"They did well and finally got their first real-world experience," Phipps said.

The team used three of their Strykers equipped with winches to safely lift the truck back onto its wheels. According to the driver, the vehicle could be driven away once he had replaced the oil lost during the rollover.

"The Troopers were amazing out there," Morris said. "It was an unexpected mission, so I am proud of our Soldiers. They did a great job."

"They were happy and excited to be able to help the population," he said.

"I saw the smiles on their faces when they were talking with the people; it was overall a win-win for everyone."



# Myers assumes command



Maj. Vincent Myers passes the U.S. Army Health Clinic Illesheim guidon to Staff Sgt. Victor Miranda during a change of command ceremony, Aug. 20, at Illesheim Chapel. Myers assumed command from Lt. Col. James Cahill.

Photo by Jennifer Walsh Cary

## Patient Advocates

We're Looking Out For You

Did you know that if you have a problem before, during or after your visit to an Army health clinic you can contact a patient advocate?

The patient advocate will assess the situation and ensure you get the care and treatment you deserve.

During the next few months, the *Bavarian News* will feature each of the 15 patient advocates in the Bavaria footprint.

To speak with a patient advocate directly, contact your local health clinic.

### Schweinfurt Patient Advocates



**Name:** Shay Foster

**Clinic:** USAHC Schweinfurt

**Hometown:** McDonough, Ga.

**Position at the clinic:** Respect-Mil administrative assistant

**How long have you been there:** I've been at the clinic for about six months.

**What do you enjoy most about your job:** Working with people from different backgrounds of life.

**What is the one thing patients should know about their health care:** Their health should be important to them because health care is the prevention and treatment of illness.

**Why should patients come to see you:** I will ensure the patient's issues and concerns will be heard and appropriately and immediately addressed.

**Tell me something unique about yourself:** I keep a notepad on my nightstand so I can write down my thoughts or ideas in the middle of the night or first thing in the morning.

.....



**Name:** Stephen C. Lester

**Clinic:** USAHC Schweinfurt

**Hometown:** Cincinnati, Ohio

**Position at the clinic:** Primary Care Registered Nurse

**How long have you been there:** I've been at the clinic for about four months.

**What do you enjoy most about your job:** Getting a problem solved; the more unique the better.

**What is the one thing patients should know about their health care:** Patients need to realize that for me to be able to advocate for them, they must accept the responsibility for their own health care.

**Why should patients come to see you:** I sincerely want to help them resolve their problem(s).

**Tell me something unique about yourself:** I still play softball, like to play golf and enjoy traveling.

# ERMC hosts benefits awareness events

by ERMCC Public Affairs  
*News Release*

HEIDELBERG, Germany — The Europe Regional Medical Command is supporting the U.S. European Command's 2010 Health Care Benefits Awareness Month with a variety of community outreach events throughout September.

Health Care Benefits Awareness Month is an annual EUCOM-wide, joint-service initiative that began in 2006 to inform beneficiaries about their health care benefits.

During September, representatives from each Army health clinic will be available to discuss benefit and medical services information at community events, radio talk shows, town halls and other public venues. They will also coordinate with garrison newspapers and local AFN affiliates to publicize these weekly themes designated by Tricare Eurasia-Africa: physical health, mental health, dental health and health care while traveling.

Information about the new Tricare Overseas Program contract that began Sept. 1 will also be available in each clinic and at the following community events. TOP contract information is also available at [www.tricare.mil/TOPcontract](http://www.tricare.mil/TOPcontract).

For additional information, contact your local health clinic or visit the Europe Regional Medical Command website at [ermc.amedd.army.mil](http://ermc.amedd.army.mil) and your local clinic Web page at [ermc.amedd.army.mil/mtf/index.html](http://ermc.amedd.army.mil/mtf/index.html).

## 2010 Health Care Benefits Awareness Month community events

<b>Bamberg</b> Sept. 10, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Benefits information Warner Barracks community Expo	Sept. 23, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Hygiene, Tricare information PX/Food court
Sept. 24, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Benefits information Warner Barracks commissary	<b>Illesheim</b> Sept. 17, 1-5 p.m. Car seat safety checks, Tricare information Library
<b>Grafenwoehr</b> Sept. 8, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Diabetic Fair, Tricare information Grafenwoehr Health Clinic	Sept. 29, 1-5 p.m. BP check, Tricare information Illesheim Health Clinic
<b>Vilseck</b> Sept. 10, 1-5 p.m. Benefits information table Rose Barracks Commissary	<b>Katterbach</b> Aug. 28, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Tricare/health information Ansbach Community Showcase
Sept. 24, 1-5 p.m. Tricare information Rose Barracks Commissary	Sept. 25, 12-4 p.m. Tricare/community health info Ansbach Kinderfest
<b>Hohenfels</b> Sept. 3, 8 a.m.-noon Retiree Appreciation Day, Health Clinic	<b>Schweinfurt</b> Sept. 15, 10 a.m.-noon Behavioral health, family advocacy information PX
Sept. 17, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Health fair, post gym	Sept. 29, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Health fair Schweinfurt Health Clinic

# Tricare Overseas supports beneficiaries

by Tricare Management Activity  
*News Release*

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — International SOS Assistance, the new Tricare Overseas Program (TOP) contractor, will bring more comprehensive, patient centered and customer-focused service to nearly half a million Tricare beneficiaries overseas starting Sept. 1.

Under the new contract, non-active duty beneficiaries living overseas will still enjoy the same Tricare Standard benefit — no enrollment fees and the freedom to choose a host nation provider without a referral — as well as new customer service features. Starting Sept. 1, Standard beneficiaries can contact a TOP regional call center to get assistance finding a provider in their area.

Call center representatives will also provide program and benefit information 24/7, and the TOP contractor will provide some claims assistance through Tricare Service Centers (TSCs), call centers and overseas claims processors.

As the new contract begins, Standard beneficiaries overseas are reminded of important information they need to make sure their health care needs are met and claims processes are trouble free:

Obtain a payment receipt and file for reimbursement as soon as possible. Tricare claims must be filed within a year of date of service.

Beneficiaries should be aware that they are responsible for annual deductibles and cost-shares.

Beneficiaries are responsible for filling out and filing claims. Military treatment facilities (MTFs) and contract representatives cannot fill out, accept or process claims forms from beneficiaries or providers.

Some overseas MTFs currently allow beneficiaries who are normally Tricare Standard to enroll to the facility on a space-available basis and receive primary care under Tricare Plus. The new contract does not change Tricare Plus, but its availability, as well as space-available care in MTFs, is determined by the commander based on resources. Even when enrolled to an MTF under Plus, when getting care outside of the MTF, beneficiaries are still responsible for paying deductibles and cost shares, and filing claims.

The Europe Regional Medical Command's Host Nation Patient Liaison Program will continue. Patient liaisons will continue to assist beneficiaries who receive inpatient care at host nation hospitals and, if available, on initial visits for outpatient specialty care by a host nation provider.

Retirees and all non-Prime patients will now need to file claims directly with Wisconsin Physicians Service (WPS), the overseas claims processor using DD Form 2642. Previously, clinic Tricare Service Centers may have taken responsibility for sending claims on behalf of the beneficiary.

Additional information, including a new Tricare Overseas Program Handbook and an Overseas Commanders Toolkit, are now available on the TOP Contract Web page at [www.tricare.mil/topcontract](http://www.tricare.mil/topcontract). The TOP Handbook offers detailed benefit and claims processing information.

Army health clinic leaders and clinic Tricare Service Center representatives will reach out to their respective communities with information about contract changes meaningful to their beneficiaries. They will provide briefings at community town hall meetings, family readiness group meetings, unit gatherings and other venues, as well as publish information in local military newspapers to facilitate a smooth contract transition.

For more information about the new top contract and to download a new overseas handbook, including new contact information, beneficiaries can go to [www.tricare.mil/topcontract](http://www.tricare.mil/topcontract).

*Editor's Note: Information also gathered from a Europe Regional Medical Command news release.*

## Tricare Overseas Handbook orders, enrollment questions

According to International SOS, beneficiaries in Europe, the Middle East and Africa may now call (+44) 20-8762-8384 to order the new Tricare Overseas Program Handbook orders and to ask enrollment questions. They may also send an e-mail to [tricarelon@internationalsos.com](mailto:tricarelon@internationalsos.com).

These phone numbers will have an expanded menu, including medical assistance, claims information and provider education options.

Toll-free lines within individual countries will be available to beneficiaries at [www.tricare-overseas.com](http://www.tricare-overseas.com) and [www.tricare.mil](http://www.tricare.mil).



# What's Happening

## Grafenwoehr/ Vilseck Briefs

### Writers, layout artist wanted

The Bavarian News is looking for volunteer photojournalists and layout artists to cover community events and assist with newspaper layout.

Covering an event can range from snapping an interesting photo to writing a full-fledged article. Hours are flexible: no minimum requirement per month and volunteers only cover the events for which they volunteer. Start building your writing resume today — e-mail the managing editor at [jeremy.buddemeier@eur.army.mil](mailto:jeremy.buddemeier@eur.army.mil) for more information.

### Estate claims

Anyone having claims on or obligations to the estate of 1st Lt. Robert Bennedsen of 2nd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment; Paul Cazzupe of G Company, 3rd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment; or Pfc. John Andrade of I Company, 3rd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, should contact the summary court martial officer, Capt. Christopher Haag, at DSN 476-5391, CIV 016090278066 or e-mail [chris.haag@us.army.mil](mailto:chris.haag@us.army.mil).

■ For claims on or obligations to the estates of Staff Sgt. Marc A. Arizmendez, Spc. Roger Lee, or Pfc. Michael S. Pridham, 1st Bn., 4th Inf. Regt., contact the assigned summary court officer: Arizmendez: 1st Lt. Leon Perry, DSN 520-5463; Lee: 2nd Lt. Zachary McInain, DSN 520-5282; Pridham: 2nd Lt. Bruce Rosenbloom, DSN 520-5413.

■ For claims on or obligations to the estate of Staff Sergeant Derek J. Farley of 702nd EOD, 18th CSSB, should contact the summary court martial officer, 2nd Lt. Samuel D. Stahlmann, DSN 475-9140, cell 015204034792 or e-mail [samuel.stahlmann@eur.army.mil](mailto:samuel.stahlmann@eur.army.mil).

### Patriot Day

The Grafenwoehr Military Community will conduct a Patriot Day event, Sept. 10, at 10 a.m. at the 9/11 Memorial site on Rose Barracks (across the street from Bldg. 305, 2SCR HQ).

The event will commemorate those who perished in the attacks at the Pentagon, the World Trade Center and on Flight 93, Sept. 11, 2001.

### 9/11 BBQ

Come out for the 9/11 Barbecue at Big Mike Park in Vilseck at 11:30 a.m. Sponsored by the Vilseck Community and Spouses Club and the German-American Kontakt Club, the event will feature dancing and tons of activities for children. Catering will be provided by

Angelo's Soul Food. For more, e-mail [vcscmail1@yahoo.com](mailto:vcscmail1@yahoo.com).

### Bicycle Safety Day

Join the community for Family Bicycle Safety Day, Sept. 11, from 9 a.m.-noon at Vilseck Elementary. Parental supervision is required.

The event will include safety/anti-theft presentation, basic laws and hand signals, license and registration with MPs, German laws and safety, bicycle and helmet inspection (not repairs), and a certificate of participation.

There will also be a bike rodeo/ride (bike helmet required). Join us for a little learning and lots of fun!

### Fitness Center closure

Rose Barracks Fitness Center will be closed all day, Sept. 28, for its annual ventilation system cleaning. The facility will reopen Sept. 29 at 5:30 a.m.

## Hohenfels Briefs

### Couples Communication

Every Wednesday: Army Community Service has the weekly Couples Communication workshop starting up again. Make your Marriage Hotter. Make your Conflicts Calmer.

With the current deployment cycle and complexity of military life, use this time to focus on building a stronger marriage. Classes are from 4-5:30 p.m. at ACS, Bldg. 10.

For more information, call ACS at DSN 466-4860.

### Retiree Appreciation Day

Sept. 3: Hohenfels Health Clinic will have its annual Retiree Appreciation Day, 8 a.m. to noon. No appointments needed. This day has been set aside for the clinic to meet the needs of the Retiree Community.

Retirees will be able to have their annual physical and eye exam, immunizations, labs, referrals to specialty services, refill or pick up medications and physical therapy will hold classes on fall prevention and home safety.

For more, contact Emily Rich, Hohenfels Health Clinic Bldg. 51, at DSN 466-4565.

### Golf tournament

Sept. 10: The Sept. golf tournament will be held at the Hilzhofen Golf Course. Registration deadline is Sept. 7, only 18 team slots available with 4-person teams.

The entry fee is \$70, \$45 for club members and includes lunch, cart rental and green fee. 7 a.m. check-in, 8 a.m.

shotgun start.

Register on WebTrac, [www.webtrac.mwr.army.mil](http://www.webtrac.mwr.army.mil) or contact FMWR Sports and Fitness: [dlmwrhohenfelssports@eur.army.mil](mailto:dlmwrhohenfelssports@eur.army.mil).

### 9/11 Memorial Service

Sept. 10: The Religious Support Office is having a memorial service at the Nainhof Chapel, Bldg. 2B, starting at 3 p.m.

### Family Games Unplugged

Sept. 11: The second Saturday of each month is Family Games Unplugged at the library. Unplug and recharge with quality time with your family.

We provide all the fun board games, card games and more. Call DSN 466-1740 for more information.

### NFL Football Sunday

The Bowling Center will air Sunday football games on their large projector screens and flat screen TVs beginning Sept. 12.

Watch the game while enjoying any number of menu items including: hamburgers, hot dogs, Philly cheese steak sandwiches, nachos, chili cheese fries, mozzarella sticks, draft beer, wine and cocktails.

### Monthly meeting

Sept. 14: The Hohenfels VFW Post 10557 will be holding its monthly meeting at the post theater at 5:30 p.m. The meeting is open to the public, and attendance is highly encouraged.

Also the new service officer for the Hohenfels VFW Post 10557 is Michael Streeter. Questions concerning veteran benefits can be addressed to [mrstreetausa@yahoo.com](mailto:mrstreetausa@yahoo.com).

### Hallo Hohenfels

Sept. 15-17: This is the place to be if you're new to post. Hallo Hohenfels is a dazzling three-day event packed with the exact information you need upon arrival. Even better, it's a direct hands-on introduction to the local German economy. You will explore local communities including a local bakery and butcher shop, Möbelhof, a huge home decorating store, and a mall in Regensburg.

Find out how Hohenfels works without doing everything yourself and make some new friends at the same time. Hallo Hohenfels begins at ACS, Bldg. 10, at 8:30 a.m.

For more information call Kurt Rager, Relocation Program manager, at DSN 466-3403.

### PTO Meeting

Sept. 16: The Parent Teacher Organization would like to invite parents and community members to attend the first PTO meeting for the 2010-2011 school year.

The meeting is from 3-4 p.m. in the Great Hall at the middle/high school. If you are interested in becoming an officer for the organization or would like any additional information, call DSN 466-3162.

## Garmisch Briefs

### Berlin

Sept. 3-6: Berlin is the ever changing, tremendously exciting capital of Germany. Berlin is eight times the size of Paris, the museums are world class, the new architecture is overwhelming, and there are pubs and bistros everywhere. There are so many things to see: the Reichstag, Postdamer Platz, etc. Contact us for more information. Cost: \$395.

### Fat Tire & Sports Fest

Sept. 3-5: This is the 25th year of the Fat Tire Spectacular Mountain Bike Race. It is one of the oldest mountain bike races in Germany. We have coupled with the Garmisch Challenge Cross Country Race to make a weekend of fun events. Cost for adults is \$20 or \$35 with T-shirt; children: \$5 or \$20 with T-shirt.

### Brewery of the Month

Sept. 5: Beer by bikes. Right in our own back yard is a great little brewpub called Griesbrau. We will leave from the Burke Center at 2 p.m. and ride bikes to Murnau. It is a scenic 2-3 hour bike ride on bike paths and back roads through the countryside to Murnau. We will have a beer tasting, sampling their four signa-

ture beers. We will put the bikes on the truck, and ride the bus back to Garmisch at 9 p.m. Cost: \$39.

### Prague

Sept. 10-12: Prague is on the top 10 of places to visit in the old world. Enjoy a daytime tour Saturday and a fair amount of free time, plus a special guided tour of the Franz Kafka museum. Cost: \$270. This trip will run again Nov. 5-7.

### Zugspitze

Sept. 11-12: At 2,966 meters, Germany's highest peak is 2,200 meters higher than Garmisch. We will get there in two days. Starting at the Partnachklamm, we hike up through the stunning Reintal valley. We will stay at the Reintalangerhütte, in the morning we will be serenaded with Zither music. Sunday we climb to the Zugspitzplatt glacier. Get a great lunch or scale the harrowing "klettersteig" to the cross. Cost: \$149.

### Vehicle Load Training

Garmisch will hold a Vehicle Load Training class, Sept. 29, from 9-11:30 a.m. in English and 1-3:30 p.m. in German.

### Top Chef Garda

Oct. 8-11: Three nights over Columbus Day weekend on the lakeshore in beautiful Torri del Benaco with two days of cooking classes in a villa overlooking the lake plus wine tasting. Monday is market day - we head home stocking up on goodies and visit some vineyards on the South Tyrol Wine Road. A foodie extravaganza! Departs 5 p.m. Cost: \$575.

### Munich and the Third Reich

Oct. 22 & 24: After an overview on Friday, on Sunday meet at the bahnhof just prior to the 8 a.m. train to Munich, where we recreate the Bier Hall Putsch as it happened in 1923, visit the site of the Munich Accords and explore other places associated with the Nazi movement. This is an extremely interesting tour, somewhat like examining an urban battlefield. Lots of walking all day — wear comfortable shoes. Cost: \$35.

### Iceman/Bolzano Daytrip

Oct. 29 & 30: At 7 p.m. on Friday we start by showing a video about Oetzi the Iceman, Europe's oldest natural mummy who was discovered by hikers in 1991 on the Austrian/Italian border. On Saturday, we depart for a fantastic museum in Bolzano to visit the Copper Age man who lived 5,300 years ago. We also have time to visit the famous Saturday Market. A long day filled with delights. Cost: \$42.

### Neuschwanstein

Oct. 31: Visit the most popular tourist

attraction in Germany, Neuschwanstein Castle. As opposed to most of the tours that concentrate on the scandalous upbringing of Ludwig and his "tragedy," this tour is called Ludwig and Richard and focuses as much on the famous composer as well as the shy king. Essential to an understanding of the "Ludwig World" is an acquaintance with the world of 19th century German politics.

In addition to Neuschwanstein and a short stop for lunch in the castle town of Füssen, a short stop at the UNESCO designated World Heritage Site of the Wieskirche, and the Ettal Monastery. Cost is \$39.

### Venice/Verona weekend

Nov. 12-14: Two nights in the Vicenza area. We spend all Saturday in Venice seeing great art, architecture, pigeons in St. Mark's Square, gondolas and good places to eat! On Sunday, we visit Verona, the Romeo and Juliet city, with its great Roman arena and a wonderful restaurant. Cost: \$290.

### Thanksgiving in Paris

Nov. 25-28: Paris is the best Thanksgiving destination because there is so much to see, the weather is good, and this is the longest holiday weekend on the American calendar. Almost three full days; includes familiarization with public transportation and a tour of some essential but less accessible places on the first day.

Two days for people to explore the Louvre, do the Musée d'Orsay and visit other sites like the Eiffel Tower on their own. Cost: \$465.

Unless noted, all events meet at the Pete Burke Center. To register for the events contact the staff at the Pete Burke Community Center, DSN 440-2638, Civ. 08821-750-2638, or e-mail us at [Garmisch.FMWRodr@us.army.mil](mailto:Garmisch.FMWRodr@us.army.mil).

### ACS classes and gatherings

■ **Monday:** Money Mondays: 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.;

Fundamentals of English: 1-2:30 p.m.

■ **Tuesday:** Playgroup: 10-11:30 a.m. at the Garmisch Chapel;

Conversational German: 9:30-11 a.m. - will resume Sept. 14

■ **Wednesday:** Working Wednesdays: 1-2:30 p.m.

■ **Thursday:** Stroller Walk: 10:30-11:30 Meet at ACS.

All take place or meet at the Garmisch Army Community Service Center (Artillery Kaserne, Bldg. 203) unless stated otherwise. For more, contact your ACS staff at DSN 440-3777, CIV 08821-750-3777, or e-mail [Garmisch.FMWRacs@eur.army.mil](mailto:Garmisch.FMWRacs@eur.army.mil).



**September 11, 2010**  
**9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**  
**Vilseck Elementary**

**Family Bicycle Safety Day**

A Little Learning...  Lots of FUN!!

- Safety/Anti-theft Presentation
- Basic Laws and Hand Signals
- License and Registration with MPs
- German Laws and Safety with Local Polizei
- Bicycle and Helmet Inspection (not repairs)
- Certificate of Participation

**Bike Rodeo/Ride**

BYOWB: Bring Your Own Water Bottle!!

★ Parent Supervision is Required ★

★ Bike Helmets are required for the Bike Rodeo ★

**Host Nation and US Army Europe Joint Traffic Campaign 2010/2011**

*Garrison/Vilseck Safety Office, Military Police, Provost Marshall office, Polizei, AFN, AAFES, Vilseck Elementary Administration and Staff, and the Boy Scouts of America*

[http://www.fight\\_the\\_risk.army.mil/default.htm](http://www.fight_the_risk.army.mil/default.htm)

**USAG Grafenwoehr**



**Freedom Run**

**September 11**

**9:11 a.m.**

**Main Post, Grafenwoehr Physical Fitness Center Bldg. 170.**

Your participation as either a volunteer or running/walking participant will allow you to support and thank our troops by connecting you with our servicemen and women. The first 500 finishers will receive a T-shirt and Coin upon completion of the run. Your race number will be required to receive your T-shirt/coin.

Put on your running shoes and join us in supporting our troops. Grafenwoehr, Family and MWR, and the non-profit organization "We do Care" is hosting a 9.11 mile run and a 9.11km run/walk.

For more information contact  
DSN 475-8207, CIV 09461-83-8207  
or DSN 475-9007, CIV 09461-83-9007.







# What’s Happening

## Ansbach Briefs

### TV signal to disappear

If you live off post and receive the AFN television signal via the old “rabbit ears” antenna, you will lose the signal soon. According to AFN officials, this has been planned for quite some time because of the built-in housing cable systems, which are actually the replacement for the over-the-air AFN TV signal, and the satellite dish and receiver system.

The TV signal (i.e. closed circuit concept) was designed only for the Soldiers, DoD civilians and their family members, allowing for more up-to-date movies and shows provided to the audience.

For more, call DSN 476-3172/3173, CIV 09662-83-3172.

### Double charges

Installation Management Command, Europe Region Family and MWR customers are advised that credit and debit card transactions conducted in IMCOM-Europe MWR facilities during the period of Aug. 7-9, including Army Lodging and the Edelweiss Lodge and Resort, may have been duplicated (double charged) due to a system error in the AAFES card processing system on which these facilities rely.

AAFES officials are processing a system correction that will correct this error and credit accounts for the duplicate charges. MWR regrets any inconvenience to our customers.

### Lunch program applications

Free and reduced-price school lunch program applications are now available for the 2010-11 school year. The application can be picked up at Army Community Service, any USAG Ansbach Department of Defense Dependents School or from the School Liaison Office’s information board across from the community mail room boxes in Bldg. 5817 on Katterbach Kaserne.

Once completed, bring the application, along with a copy of the sponsor’s orders, and most recent leave and earning statement, to your local ACS office.

For more information, call DSN 467-2883, CIV 09802-83-2883 in Katterbach or DSN 467-4555, CIV 09841-83-4555 in Illesheim.

### Have a ball!

Engineers across Europe are invited to the European Castle Ball, Sept. 24, at the Wuerzburg Castle, to celebrate engineer heritage, partner with allies and

to synchronize and integrate engineers across Europe.

The dress for service members is formal military attire and for civilians, formal evening attire or business suit and tie. For more information and tickets, call DSN 314-379-5049, CIV 0620-280-5049.

### Clinic renovation

Be advised that the Illesheim Health Clinic is currently under renovation and will be until November 2011. While this renovation will be a slight inconvenience now, it will greatly benefit the Soldier and family members in the future.

If you have any questions please call DSN at 467-5114. Thank you for your time and understanding.

### School events

Key dates for the USAG Ansbach DoDDS-E schools for school year 2010-11 are: Sept. 7 – first day of kindergarten and Rainbow Elementary Open House, 5 p.m.; Sept. 8 – Ansbach Elementary Open House, 5 p.m.; Sept. 9 – Illesheim Elementary Open House, 5 p.m.

Questions should be addressed to the school liaison officer at DSN 467-2098, CIV 09802-83-2098.

### Local events

Leonardo at the Brueckencenter  
The Brueckencenter in Ansbach features an exhibition about Leonardo da Vinci – the man, the genius, the inventor. From today through Sept. 12, the exhibition displays 30 of the master’s works, some of them interactive. A Mona Lisa picture wall and a bridge building set invite everybody to participate. Children can show off their artistic talents by painting and drawing Leonardo’s work or create their own.

### Imperial City Days

From Sept. 3-5 history comes alive in Rothenburg ob der Tauber. Meet knights, medieval musicians, farmers and riflemen; enjoy historical music and dance performances, medieval craftsmen market and riding performances. Highlights are the torchlight procession of historical groups on Friday evening, fireworks on Saturday and the Shepherds’ Dance on Sunday. This is a great experience not only for kids!

### Rhine in Flames

Travel to St. Goarhausen, Sept. 18, and hike the vineyards above the historic Loreley. That evening partake in one of the most prominent wine festivals in the region and then camp in St. Goar, along the banks of the Rhine River. After breaking camp on Sunday morning, board a ferry

and travel up the Rhine from St. Goar to the town of Rudesheim, viewing many castles along the way.

Trip departs Katterbach Outdoor Recreation at 8 a.m. and Storck Barracks at 9 a.m. Cost is \$99 for adults, \$69 for children; cost includes transportation, ferry, boat ride and camping equipment and fees. Contact the Katterbach ODR at DSN 467-3225, CIV 09802-83-3225 for more information.

### Oktoberfest

The Oktoberfest in Munich is one of the largest carnivals in the world, visited by more than six million people every year.

#### Opening hours

■ Beer serving hours: weekdays, 10 a.m.-10:30 p.m.  
Sat, Sun and holidays: 9 a.m.-10:30 p.m.  
Tents close daily at 11:30 p.m. (with two exceptions, the “Kaefer Wiesn-Schaenke” and the “Weinzelt,” which are open until 1 a.m.).

#### Sales booths

■ Mon-Thu: 10 a.m. - 11:30 p.m.; Fri: 10 a.m.-midnight; Sat: 9 a.m.-12 a.m.  
■ Sun, holidays: 9 a.m.-11:30 p.m.  
■ Carnival and rides: Mon-Thu: 10 a.m.-11:30 p.m.; Fri, Sat: 10 a.m.-midnight; Sun and holidays: 10 a.m.-11:30 p.m.

■ Family days: Every Tue from noon-6 p.m. Discounted rides, entrance and sales prices, and the locals come in traditional outfits!

For more information on the Oktoberfest visit the official website at [www.oktoberfest.de/en](http://www.oktoberfest.de/en).

### Altstadtfest in Hoechstadt

The Altstadtfest (old town fest) downtown Hoechstadt a.d. Aisch takes place from Aug. 27 to Aug. 29. Different fest sites and the streets downtown will turn into locations for a children’s flea market, a crafts market and other events especially tailored to children.

Local beer and culinary specialties, cake and exotic foods will satisfy the hunger and thirst of the visitor. A large fireworks display on Sunday at 11 p.m. will close the fest.

### Wuerzburg Weinparade

The annual wine parade is a wine fest organized by restaurant owners and vintners of Wuerzburg. Six vintners present more than 100 local wines from all quality levels up to the “Eiswein” (a wine produced after the first frost).

The fest ends Sept. 5 at the Wuerzburg Marktplatz. Opening times are 11 a.m.-11 p.m. For more information, visit [www.weinparade.de](http://www.weinparade.de).

## Schweinfurt Briefs

### Community and contact info

For more information on the latest news, upcoming events, available services and resources, or to find the right point of contact for your concern, visit us at [www.TeamSchweinfurt.com](http://www.TeamSchweinfurt.com).

### 50/50 Summer Bowling

The Kessler Bowling Center is offering a 50/50 Summer Bowling deal now through Sept. 30. Purchase a \$25 value game card and earn 50 games at 50¢ each. Stop by the Kessler Bowling Center, Bldg. 449, on Kessler Field now through Sept. 30 and win big! For more, call DSN 354-6332, CIV 09721-96-6332.

### Open Dodgeball League

Today’s the deadline to sign up for coed open dodgeball league, open to all ID cardholders age 18 and above. Games are held on Wednesdays at the Finney Fitness Center with the season beginning Sept. 15, and the first coaches and players meeting will be held Sept. 8 at 6 p.m. For more, call DSN 353-8234, CIV 09721-96-8234.

### ODR Paintball Tournament

Outdoor Recreation holds a round robin style Labor Day Paintball Tournament Sept. 4, starting at 9 a.m. Teams consist of five beginner to intermediate level players.

The team entry fee of \$100 covers paint and all fees. First through third place will win ODR Paintball vouchers. For more, call DSN 353-8080, CIV 09721-96-8080.

### BOSS events & trip

The award-winning Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program offers numerous programs.

This month’s BOSS meetings will be held Sept. 8 and 22, each at the Finney Recreation Center, Bldg. 64, on Conn Barracks starting at 2 p.m. Join in for a special trip to Europa Park, Sept. 11, departing at 6 a.m. Cost is \$25 for transportation and park entry.

Come to the next Single Soldier Dinner, Sept. 14, at Finney Recreation Center at 6 p.m. or their next bowling night at Kessler Field, Sept. 21, at 6 p.m. Both events are free. For more, call DSN 354-8476, CIV 09721-96-8476.

### Auto Skills classes

The Auto Skills Center on Conn Barracks offers free fundamental classes on various topics to all ID cardholders, each starting at 7 p.m. The next upcoming classes are: Basic body work, Sept. 9; Painting basics, Sept. 23; and Advanced body work, Oct. 7.

For more, call DSN 353-8224, CIV 09721-96-8224.

### New in Schweinfurt?

Schweinfurt Newcomers Awareness Program for Spouses, or SNAPS, is a five-day orientation to Schweinfurt and our military community. The course covers German language and culture, visits to St. Joseph and Leopoldina hospitals, a walking tour of downtown Schweinfurt, learning how to use the public transportation system, and a tour of local attractions. Child care is provided. Reservations are required.

The next SNAPS will be held Sept. 13-17. For more, call DSN 354-6933, CIV 09721-96-6933.

### Hispanic American Heritage

Ledward Library celebrates the Hispanic American Heritage Month in September with a Hispanic cooking class, preparing Mexican dishes and cuisine, Sept. 14, at 1 p.m., and a free lunch fiesta, Sept. 23, from noon to 1 p.m. Sign up for the cooking class in advance. For more, call DSN 354-1740, CIV 09721-96-1740.

### CPR and First Aid classes

The American Red Cross offers a standard first aid class, Sept. 14, from 8 a.m. to noon and an adult/child/infant CPR class, Sept. 15, also from 8 a.m. to noon, at their office in Bldg. 289 on Ledward Barracks.

Costs: first aid is \$25; CPR is \$40; and both classes together are \$45. For more, call DSN 354-1760, CIV 09721-96-1760.

### Hired!

The next term of the Hired! apprenticeship program begins on Sept. 15. Hired! provides 15- to 18-year-old youth with career-exploration opportunities in MWR operations. All participants must be registered with CYSS and meet prerequisites.

For more, call DSN 354-6732, CIV 09721-96-6732.

### Cold War border trip

Join Outdoor Recreation for a trip to Point Alpha, a former U.S. Army observation post, Sept. 18. The site features a museum dedicated to the plight of citizens under the GDR border regime.

The cost of \$10 includes transportation departing from ODR at 9 a.m. and returning at 5 p.m. Please bring euros for entrance fees.

For more, call DSN 353-8080, CIV 09721-96-8080.

### Engineers’ Ball

Engineers across Europe are invited to attend the European Castle Ball scheduled for Sept. 24, at the Wuerzburg Castle to celebrate engineer heritage, to partner with allies, and to synchronize and integrate engineers across Europe. The dress for service members is formal military attire, and formal evening attire or business suit and tie for civilians.

For more, call DSN 379-5049, CIV 0620-280-5049.

### Women’s volleyball league

All interested ID cardholders age 18 and above can register at Kessler Fitness Center between Sept. 27 and Oct. 12 for women’s recreational volleyball league. The first coaches & players meeting is held Oct. 12 at 6 p.m., and the season starts Oct. 24 with games played on Mondays and Wednesdays at Kessler Fitness Center. For more, call DSN 354-6735, CIV 09721-96-6735.

### Library events

Every Wednesday Ledward Library offers: a Soldier In-Processing Class at 9:30 a.m.; Children’s Story Time & Crafts at 10 a.m.; the Edge Meeting 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.; and a Zeens for Teens meeting 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. For more, call DSN: 354-1740, CIV 09721-96-1740.

### Book club

The Ledward Library invites you to the next meeting of its adult book club, Sept. 29, at 5:15 p.m. The book title is “Monique and the Mango Rains” by Kris Holoway. Coffee, tea and treats will be served. For more, call DSN 354-1740, CIV 09721-96-1740.

# TRIPPIN' WITH BOSS



## EUROPA PARK

SAT. SEPT 11  
Depart Finney Rec Ctr @ 6 a.m./Return @ 10 p.m.  
Cost per person: \$30 includes transportation & park admission fee  
Bring Euros for personal expenses

## EXPLORE PRAGUE

Columbus Day Weekend: Sat. Oct 9-Mon. Oct 11  
Cost per person: €198 for dbl room or €267 for single room.  
Cost includes: transportation; 2 nights lodging with breakfast; guided city tour & medieval dinner.  
Bring Euros for personal expenses.

Oct 9: Depart Finney Rec Ctr @ 6 a.m. & arrive in Prague for tour 8 p.m.: Medieval Dinner  
Oct 10: Free Day...do what YOU want!  
Oct 11: Depart after breakfast & arrive Finney Rec Ctr @ 7 p.m.  
\*\*THIS TRIP REQUIRES A PASSPORT\*\*



More Info/Sign-Up:  
USAG Schweinfurt  
Finney Rec Center  
Conn Barracks, Bldg. 64  
09721-96-8476/DSN 353-8476  
\*Adults only (Single Soldiers have priority); Trips each require minimum 30 people to proceed.

# Welcome to Auto Skills 101

## Upcoming Classes (Thursdays, 7 p.m.)

- Sept 9: Basic Bodywork
- Sept 23: Painting Basics
- Oct 7: Advanced Bodywork

→ Open House

→ Fri, Sept 17: 11 a.m.

→ Free BBQ

→ See what we offer!

+ Free for all ID cardholders +



Auto Skills Center, Conn Barracks, Bldg. 49: 09721-96-8224/DSN 353-8224



Celebrating 200 years of tradition

1810 — Oktoberfest — 2010

Staff report

It's time to dust off your lederhosen and dirndls and get ready for Oktoberfest. The annual two-week festival hosts more than six million people from around the world and promises to be a cultural, crowd pleaser this year as well. Though this year's Oktoberfest will mark its 200th year, the fest has actually only taken place 177 times due to several wars and epidemics in the course of two centuries.

The first Oktoberfest was a five-day festival held in 1810 to celebrate the Bavarian Crown Prince Ludwig's marriage to Princess Therese von Sachsen-Hildburghausen. In the following years, the celebrations were repeated and, later, the festival was prolonged and moved forward into September, before the onset of cooler temperatures. This year's fest will run from Sept. 18 through Oct. 4.

If you're unfamiliar with the current concept of Oktoberfest, here's a quick overview: All of the major names in the German beer scene set up massive tents filled with long tables and decorated in a traditional Bavarian style. In order to get a seat in a tent, you either have to buy tickets in advance or arrive really early. It is sometimes possible to get in without a ticket, if you're very patient (or very pushy) or generously tip the doorman, but it's extremely hard to get through the crowds and into a beer tent without considerable advance planning.

Once inside the tents, revelers order huge liter mugs of beer, called a "mass." Most of tents have some kind of food and a few serve wine or coffee in addition to beer. Visitors listen to live music performed in the tents, drink beer, sing along to Bavarian folk tunes and dance on the tables. The tables are very long and crowded, so don't expect a private table just for your group. Everyone shares and sits close to ensure as many people as possible are able to squeeze in. The larger tents seat several thousand people.

"I have been to Oktoberfest twice, in 2008 and 2009, once on the weekend and the other during the week," said military spouse Ingrid Cruthird. "Weekends are too crowded! If you can go during the week, do so."

Michael Fraunholz, from the garrison's Directorate of Logistics Property Book Office, agreed. Fraunholz attended Oktoberfest for the first time last year and recommended getting there early increases your chances for getting a seat in one of the tents.

In addition to lots of food and beer, Oktoberfest is home to carnival rides, midway games, souvenir shops and children's activities. Tuesdays (Sept. 21 and 28) are family days, where carnival rides and performances will cost less, according to the Oktoberfest.de website.

"Weekdays are definitely a good



Photos courtesy of oktoberfest.de unless otherwise specified

**Oktoberfest opens every year with a parade from the city center to the Oktoberfest site and it's said to be one of the best parts of the annual event with horses, bands and costumed dancers.**

time to go for family time," said Jennifer Black, another military spouse who attended Oktoberfest last year. "There is drinking during the day, but it's mostly in the beer tents. There are lots of carnival rides, tons of food and everyone from all over is just having a great time."

It's really important to buy tickets to a beer tent if you're hoping to get inside, since there are literally millions of people who come to Oktoberfest each year. While children are allowed in the tents, those under 6 years old must leave the tents after 8 p.m. The crowds can even pose potential problems outside the tents.

"Leave your pets at home and keep a close eye on your children and fest companions (especially the driver) as it is very easy to lose sight of one another," said Corinna Waddell, a former garrison employee who grew up in Gmuend.

iPhone-carrying revelers who would like to throw caution to the wind (but still find their friends amid the loud music and crowds) can download a "Weis'n Flirt & Find" application, which overlays your friends' positions on a Google map.

"Despite what you may hear, Oktoberfest has changed, especially during the week," Cruthird said. "There are no drunks falling over — the police have that well under control. If you want to take your children make sure it's during the week, midseason (the second or third week) and on a sunny day."

Although it can be the most crowded, several Oktoberfest veterans, including Waddell, highly recommended attending the opening parade, which boasts ornately decorated

floats, horse-drawn carriages and traditional German music as it makes its way through Munich to the festplatz. This year's costume parade will be held Sunday, Sept. 19 at 10 a.m.

Tickets

Tickets can be purchased in advance for all 14 of the big tents, as well as some of the 20 smaller ones through their individual websites. Each has a unique atmosphere and slightly different clientele. Ticket prices usually include some food and one or two beverages. Visitors can enter the tents without reservations but will not be served if they don't have a seat. Guests without reservations should arrive early (before 2:30 p.m.) for best results.

Getting there

Once you've reserved a place in a beer tent and donned your lederhosen or dirndl, it's time to make your way to the fest.

Taking the train, while sometimes more costly, could be the most hassle-free option. Fest-goers can combine forces to use the Bayern Pass (30 euros for a full day of travel on regional trains, U-bahn and S-bahn trains for up to five travelers). The key term is regional trains — don't make the mistake of boarding a high-speed ICE (Intercity Express) train, which is not included in the Bayern Pass.

Also, on weekdays, the first Bayern Pass train leaves just after 9 a.m.; weekend trains leave as early as 5:30-6:30 a.m.

The Deutsche Bahn Vilseck Station is also offering Oktoberfest

Bayern Pass packages (32 euros), which includes a Bayern Pass, an Oktoberfest schedule, explains local traditions and offers recommendations for activities in Munich after the Oktoberfest party shuts down.

If you don't intend to stay the night, be sure to double check the times for the last train home. (The last train for Vilseck from the Munich Hauptbahnhof leaves at 9:09 p.m.)

Another option for getting to Munich is by bus. Outdoor Recreation will run busses, Sept. 18 and Sept. 25, from Rose Barracks (departs from Langenbruck Center at 6:30 a.m.) and Main Post (departs from Burger King at 7:30 a.m.). The busses will return to post around 9 p.m.

Cost is \$39 for adults (guests 12 and older); \$29 for children (ages 3-12); and \$10 for children under 3. Prices are for transportation only.

For those who would prefer to drive their own vehicle, Munich offers several park-and-ride options in the surrounding area. Drivers can park just outside the city and "commute" via U-bahn. Visit Oktoberfest.de for additional information.

Once in Munich, just follow the massive crowd of people wearing traditional clothing or "trachtenmode" and you'll eventually get to the Theresienwiese fest grounds. Signs posted all over town point the way to the fest grounds or to the proper public transportation stop to get there. Getting to Oktoberfest is easy; getting home is a different story. Prost!

*Editor's Note: Information compiled from militaryconciierge.com, oktoberfest.de and various Internet sources.*



Iced 'lebkuchen' like these can be found throughout the fest and are a Bavarian favorite.



Traditional Bavarian Alpine hats are the rage for locals and tourists alike.



Photo by Corrina Waddell



(Above) The Olympia Barth rollercoaster, Rund die the Tegernsee and swings are just a few of the rides at the fest. There are also many for young children and all run well into the evening.



(From left to right) Many get into the mood by wearing traditional dirndls and lederhosen. Every year there's a new commemorative mug for fest goers to collect. Each tent is decorated with great care to demonstrate the tent's theme. In order to eat or drink you must be sitting, so reserve a seat early.



# ‘Double shot’ technology gives Soldiers edge

Story and photo by

**Spc. John W. Herrick**

*126th Press Camp Headquarters,  
Michigan Army National Guard*

It's no secret that route clearing presents serious hazards and challenges for U.S. forces in theaters of operation like Afghanistan and Iraq. That's why the 535th Engineer Support Company is outfitting two of its Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles in Hohenfels with a Double Shot Battle Station.

Originally outfitted for Strykers, Double Shot has multiple capabilities. The key feature for the engineers when scanning for improvised explosive devices is the split screen, on-the-move-video-recording device, which allows Soldiers to monitor discrepancies in routes.

"Basically, what Double Shot does is record a route we travel. Then if we go down that same road again at anytime the system automatically picks up any changes along the route by blinking; like dug up earth, or maybe some garbage that wasn't there before, and aids us in finding IED's," said Staff Sgt. Bryan J. Marshal, section sergeant, 535th Engineer Support Company.

Based in Bamberg, the 535th is training on route clearing procedures in preparation for a deployment to Afghanistan this year.

The Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Hohenfels creates a realistic training environment for the 535th ESC by incorporating role players as Afghan nationals and providing Soldiers the opportunity to work with NATO allies. The goal is to ensure the training is the most realistic and relevant as possible.



"Hohenfels provides a great platform for this type of training. The landscape is challenging for our vehicles. I think that allows us to have a broader perspective of what can go right and wrong," said 1st Lt. James Puddicombe, 1st platoon leader, 535th ESC.

The 535th is field testing the two Double Shot devices for the purpose of route clearing missions in Afghanistan.

"Each tough box (laptop) has step-by-step audio and video instructions for each of Double Shot's capabilities. Soldiers simply have to turn

it on and it will walk them through any function they wish to utilize," said Charles Woods, a route clearing instructor in Hohenfels.

Sgt. Robert C. Larson, squad leader, 535th ESC, saw the first generation Double Shot five years ago in Iraq.

"I could not believe the clarity and resolution on the split screen. Its ability to pick up the slightest changes in terrain is an awesome tool," said Larson. "It's nice to have every tool possible in your arsenal to help over there. We get tired sometimes, but the camera and tough box

**Staff Sgt. Bryan J. Marshal, a section sergeant with the 535th Engineer Support Company, uses Double Shot Battle Station. Double Shot records the routes Soldiers travel so that when they drive the route again the system automatically picks up any changes along the way. This system will help Soldiers in the field by identifying possible IEDs on the road. The system is currently being tested in Hohenfels, where instructors with the Joint Multinational Readiness Center are training Soldiers on Double Shot.**

don't."

Larson said he has not seen all that many changes that he could think of since last time he used the Double Shot.

"I guess when you do something right, you don't need to modify it that much. The designers seem to have thought of everything. It's a great piece of equipment," said Larson.

The ease and versatility of Double Shot provides Soldiers yet another resource that helps successfully accomplish a dangerous mission and save lives.



**Capt. Samo Smolej (right), a Slovenian observer-controller trainer, works with a Mustang observer controller-trainer team member at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center, recently. Though most of the observer-controller trainers at JMRC are American Soldiers, JMRC has also begun calling in OC-Ts from other supporting nations.**

## Mustangs benefit from Slovenian OC trainer

Story and photo by

**Pfc. Devin M. Wood**

*204 Public Affairs Detachment*

At the Joint Multinational Readiness Center here, the use of state-of-the-art equipment and knowledge of experienced observer-controller trainers helps troops hone the skills they will need to support military efforts from combat operations in Afghanistan to peace-keeping missions in Kosovo.

For years most observer-controller trainers at JMRC have been U.S. Soldiers. But, over the last few years, JMRC has augmented its team with multinational cadre at the battalion, company and platoon levels. But for the first time, a multinational observer-controller trainer is working at the brigade level.

Like other multinational augmentees, Capt. Samo Smolej, a Slovenian soldier on JMRC's Mustang OC-T team, brings a wealth of experiences he has gained in his home country. Smolej, who is on his fifth tour at JMRC, has been successful at integrating that experience with that of his American counterparts to help improve overall training during the exercises.

"I enjoy working with the Americans," said Smolej. "I help to plan the training rotations for the units coming in. I volunteer to come on these mis-

sions because they have been good experience for me."

The multinational OC-T on the brigade level is a new concept that has met open arms at the JMRC.

"This is actually the first time since I've been here that we have had a multinational OC-T working with us," said Lt. Col. Mike Pappal, senior Mustang Team leader. "He is doing a great job assisting me in looking at multinational integration into the U.S. battle group brigade headquarters."

Smolej spends a lot of his time planning, reviewing and assessing training. His insight and feedback has been invaluable. Smolej said he adopts some American methods and uses them back home with Slovenian troops.

Pappal said the multinational augmentation benefits both JMRC and the soldier's unit back home.

"This is a win-win situation," said Pappal. "We gain manpower and another set of eyes with a viewpoint on what we are doing. (The Slovenians) improve their training capacity by seeing the way things work here."

Pappal said Smolej also can communicate to other multinational troops in ways Americans cannot.

"We have always had the U.S. view; he has helped us obtain the multinational view with his interaction with the companies," said Pappal.

## Georgian battalion soldiers prep for their mission in Afghanistan

by **Master Sgt. Grady Fontana**

*U.S. Marine Corps Forces Europe*

*Public Affairs*

The Republic of Georgia's 32nd Light Infantry Battalion recently began a monthlong training exercise here at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center. The training will culminate in a Mission Rehearsal Exercise, which will serve as a final mission evaluation before the unit's upcoming deployment to Afghanistan in support of International Security Assistance Forces. The 32nd LIB is the second of four battalions to undergo training through the Georgia Deployment Program, a Marine Corps-led initiative designed to prepare the Georgians to operate alongside U.S., NATO and other multinational forces in Counter-Insurgency Operations in Afghanistan as part of ISAF. The GDP-ISAF is a two-year training program, which began August 2009.

Prior to the final exercise of the MRE, the 32nd LIB is currently conducting lane training, also known as situational training — refresher training of everything they've learned in Georgia.

The lane training covers a variety of subjects, such as improvised explosive device training, sensitive site exploitation, mounted and dismounted patrolling, key leader engagements, precombat checks and inspections, reporting, base operations, casualty evacuation procedures, helicopter landing zone setup and several live-fire ranges.

"My main goal is to ensure my battalion is ready to go to Afghanistan," said Georgian Army Maj. Phridon Tereladze, battalion commander, 32nd LIB. "It's important we do this now because when we get back (to Georgia), we don't have time to prepare, it's important to do it now."

At Kittensee combat town, located at the top of a hill a quarter mile north of Forward Operating Base West, 10 miles west of JMRC main side, a situation is brewing. The 32nd LIB has just received an intelligence report that the town is hosting an IED factory. Bravo Company has been ordered to block off the village and search for the IED factory.

In their maneuver through town, they encounter many civilians.

"We need to focus on civil affairs — it's very important," said Tereladze. "We have to make contact with the local population. Most important, we have to have good relations with the local population. If we do, we will be successful. Everything is up to the people, they are the decision makers."

Members of Marine Forces Europe, Marine Corps Training and Advisory Group, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, and 2nd Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company, among others, are supporting the Georgians through the training evolution. Additionally, 22 Georgian military instructors are serving as observer/controllers alongside the U.S. Army and Marine observer/controllers to continue to build Georgia's partnership capacity.

"Today was supposed to be a cordon and search of this village," said Master Sgt. Hector Reyes, team chief, Georgia Liaison Team. "The intent was to make liaison with the village elder, but that changed drastically. Almost immediately, upon entering the village, we started engaging hostile acts followed by small arms fire and indirect fire."

According to Reyes, this exercise offers valuable training to an already professional army.

"They are well-rounded and the basic infantry skills are there. The level of attention-to-detail superseded what I anticipated," said Reyes. "It's just the fine tuning now, and that's what this exercise is here to do — evaluate what we suspected was good and bad, then remediate and perfect it (back in Georgia) following this exercise."

According to Maj. Chris J. Curtin, officer-in-charge of the Georgia Liaison Team, cultural differences aside, the Georgian army shares many of the same attributes of U.S. Marines: dedication to mission, camaraderie, looking out for its soldiers and taking care of them, and the desire to not let each other down and not let their country down.

"I'm very impressed with this battalion. Their level of enthusiasm and desire to get better increases with each block of instruction that they get," said Curtin, who is an artillery officer with 2nd Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company.

"They are very easy to work with; they are very determined and they look forward to working with

Marines in Afghanistan to accomplish whatever mission that the Regimental Combat Team tasks them to do."

Curtin's role, along with the other members of the GLT, is to embed with the Georgian 32nd LIB, deploy with them and help them integrate as part of a Marine RCT in Afghanistan. They arrived in Georgia late June and have been with the Georgians since.

This training at JMRC, a world-class military training facility that hosts international forces, mimics what the 32nd LIB will most likely encounter in Afghanistan and JMRC has created villages and hired actors to add to the realism.

The actors not only look like the local populace, but are also provided scripts to role play what Georgian soldiers may encounter. Along the alleys, local vendors compete for business selling DVDs and Afghan rugs.

Curtin said it's in their best interest to make sure the training is realistic and Georgians are trained well.

"We are going to serve with them in combat," said Curtin. "They are going to be on our left and our right. We all need to be able to do our job effectively to both accomplish the mission, and save and protect each other's lives."

The GDP-ISAF is not the first time the U.S. Marines have trained with Georgian Forces. Georgia was one of the first countries to offer its full, unconditional support to the U.S. in the fight against terrorism.

As a result of the partnership, Dec. 15, 2002, MarForEur assumed control of the Georgia Train and Equip Program from Special Operations Command, Europe.

Georgia Train and Equip Program, too, was a time-phased training program focused on enhancing the capabilities of the Georgian military.

In essence, the GTEP, which also lasted two years, was designed to protect the Georgian force's homeland from terrorist threats while promoting peace, security and stability in Georgia and the Caucasus region.

Then, in 2005, Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili offered to send troops to Iraq. Thus, the Georgia Sustainment and Stability Operation Program was born.



# Services available to new community members

Story and photo by  
**Kristin Bradley**  
*USAG Hohenfels Public Affairs*

While many aspects of military life are frequently uncertain, one thing Soldiers and family members know they can expect is a permanent change of station — or two or three or ten.

Military families become pros at moving an entire household across the country, but when it comes to moving across the ocean to another country, there can be unique challenges that arise for even the most seasoned mover.

To help Soldiers and families make the transition to life in Germany, or the transition from life in Germany to life back in the United States, the Relocation Readiness program at U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels Army Community Service offers services and support to ensure the transition is a smooth one.

“Often people move here and they have never been overseas. It is very different than moving between locations in the states. When people arrive they are unaccustomed to the area, the language, the culture, and that is why our relocation services here are really critical,” said Kurt Rager, Relocation Readiness program manager. “We work to provide vital resources, not just the practical resources like pots and pans from the lending closet, but also information about how

things work and where to go to get things done.”

Rager said when a newcomer arrives, whether it is a single Soldier or a family, a new private or a senior officer, one of their first stops should be to Army Community Service so Rager and his team can help the newcomer get settled.

To do that, Rager said ACS has a wide range of services designed just for newcomers.

One of the most used services, the lending closet allows new arrivals to borrow household necessities such as pots and pans, utensils, small appliances and baby items until their own household goods arrive. Community members can also use lending closet items after they ship their goods in preparations for a move back to the United States, said Rager.

For those leaving Hohenfels, Relocation Readiness has a variety of checklists and calendars to help organize the move. They also can provide information about the customer’s next duty station and will even contact ACS at the customer’s next location to help find answers to specific questions.

“There are always things you can learn when you move, even if you have moved several times,” said Rager.

For those new to Hohenfels, Rager recommends taking advantage of the free orientations and classes held at ACS, such as the Introductory German class held one week each month for two hours a day, and

the Kids and Teens Newcomer orientation held each summer.

## Hallo Hohenfels

Hallo Hohenfels, a three-day orientation program for spouses, is perhaps their most popular. Held once a month, the program introduces spouses to services available at Hohenfels, provides them with a tour of post, presents a bit of “survival German,” teaches them how to use the train system and even tours off-post locations such as a meat shop, bakery, home goods store and grocery store, and culminates in a trip to Regensburg.

Madelene Celestine, a spouse who attended Hallo Hohenfels in July, said the class made her feel more comfortable in her new surroundings.

“It gave us the chance to go out as a group and have things explained to us a little more. It made me more confident to do things I hadn’t been comfortable to do by myself yet, like shopping off post,” said Celestine.

“Hallo Hohenfels was really helpful and very informative,” said Kim Robbins, another spouse who attended the session in July. “It was enjoyable to get to know your way around and at the same time meet people in the same situation.”

The next Hallo Hohenfels will be held Sept. 15-17.

## Making connections

Throughout all their programs, Rager said helping



**Spouses new to the U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels community receive a tour of the library during Hallo Hohenfels, an orientation program for new spouses presented once a month by the Army Community Service Relocation Readiness program.**

people make those personal connections is one of the most important things they can do.

Whether it is meeting fellow newcomers or learning the “tricks of the trade” from ACS staff or other community members, Rager said it is his goal to help people make connections that make them feel at home in the community and said creating that welcoming atmosphere needs to be a group effort.

“It is critical that folks here share their knowledge and remember what it was like to be new themselves. You learned best when people shared their experiences and told you what

to do and where to go,” said Rager.

The Hohenfels community is very supportive of its newcomers, but to make that support even more accessible from day one, Rager said ACS is working with units to improve the sponsorship program that connects newcomers with an established peer in their unit.

To do that, Rager said ACS now offers a sponsorship training workshop to help sponsors provide the best possible support to their newcomer.

“Sponsors can really make or break a newcomer’s experience in those first few weeks,”

said Rager. “We want to encourage units to train sponsors ahead of time to have people ready to go when someone new comes in.”

Rager also said that due to many Soldiers’ busy rotation schedule, spouses sometimes end up taking on a lot of the sponsorship duties for their Soldier, so spouses are also encouraged to attend the training.

For more information on Relocation Readiness programs or the next scheduled sponsorship training, call ACS at DSN 466-4860, CIV 09472-83-4860.

# Officials encourage customers to support local PX

Consumers have the power to make products appear on local exchange shelves

Story and photo by  
**Kristin Bradley**  
*USAG Hohenfels Public Affairs*

Officials from U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels and the off-post community are urging Hohenfels customers to think before they shop and make purchases locally instead of traveling to other posts or shopping online so valuable services remain in both the on- and off-post communities.

According to Rebecca Spencer, manager of the Hohenfels Post Exchange, many customers travel to the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr PX to make routine purchases they could request from Hohenfels, a practice that could be keeping needed items off Hohenfels shelves.

Spencer said if a customer sees an item they like at the Grafenwoehr PX, instead of buying it there they should write down the item information and then fill out a form at the Hohenfels PX customer service desk requesting it be sent to Hohenfels.

“We can have anything sent from Graf, from perfume to TVs. Small, large, it doesn’t matter,” said Spencer.

Customers can even request something as simple as shampoo. Spencer said if a customer is looking for a specific item Hohenfels does not have, they can ask a customer service associate to see if it is available at Grafenwoehr and have it sent to Hohenfels.

Making purchases through the Hohenfels PX means when Army and Air Force Exchange Service officials make decisions about providing space and inventory, they can see what Hohenfels customers want and need, said Spencer.



**Soldiers shop for sporting goods at the U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels PXtra. Garrison, Army and Air Force Exchange Service and local off-post officials said it is important for community members to shop locally to retain vital services.**

“If there is a steadily increasing trend they see it and do tend to react favorably to that,” which could lead to the possibility of an increased product assortment or an increase in space, said Spencer.

“If people don’t shop locally, we lose services. If they don’t sell their inventory, we won’t get new things we need,” said Stacy Downing, director of USAG Hohenfels Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

In addition to providing retail services for the community, AAFES provides vital funding for Family and MWR programs, said Downing.

According to AAFES, roughly two-thirds of its earnings are paid to Family and MWR pro-

grams, a figure that exceeded \$260 million in 2009.

Still, AAFES needs the help of the community to continue to provide great services, said Spencer.

“If stores show increased traffic, it shows there is a growing need for services,” Spencer said. “But when the theater runs a blockbuster movie and only four people go, they (AAFES officials) see that, too.”

Spencer said she has known of underutilized stores or services that were shut down completely.

More store traffic and sales also means more personnel could possibly be hired, increasing

the number of jobs available in the community.

Garrison officials said while it is important to patronize local AAFES facilities when possible, some services are only available off post and for those it is equally important to shop locally.

According to Wolfgang Fruhmman, an economic advisor working to promote regional development within Bavaria, local businesses such as restaurants, flower shops, electronic stores and more all benefit heavily from American customers.

“U.S. residents are for sure an important piece of the puzzle for local retailers,” said Fruhmman.

“The more business we can attract and keep in this area, the more it stabilizes our local retailer system,” Fruhmman said, so stores that provide valuable goods will be more likely to stay in the local community, ensuring the quality of life in the region remains high.

“We have good services here in Parsberg, Velburg, in the entire region. You don’t have to go far for what you need and you save money by shopping locally instead of driving somewhere like Regensburg or Nuremberg,” said Fruhmman.

Fruhmman said he admits the language barrier between American residents and local German businessmen can be challenging sometimes, but he said customers should tell retailers what they are looking for whenever possible.

“Tell them what you want, what you are looking for, what you are missing. After two or three times it gets noticed and a good businessman will find a solution,” said Fruhmman.

Not only does spending locally ensure retailers and services remain in the area, Fruhmman said, but that money also ends up improving the quality of other services Americans use, like pools and parks.

“It is better for everyone when the local economy is healthy,” said Fruhmman.

# Garrison requests feedback about military support services

by **U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels**  
*News Release*

U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels’ annual Customer Service Assessment began Monday. Available online at [www.mymilitaryvoice.org](http://www.mymilitaryvoice.org) until Sept. 26, the survey collects feedback from leaders, Soldiers, family members, civilians, retirees and veterans on garrison service delivery.

This includes services from Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities, housing,

military personnel services, transportation, religious services and more.

The survey is an opportunity for all customers of these services to let the garrison know what is important to them and how the garrison service providers have performed over the past year.

As well as rating service delivery, survey participants will have an opportunity to provide comments about what has been done and where there may be opportunities for improvement.

“The annual Customer Service Assessment

is just one method for the garrison to get the “Voice of the Customer,” said Annette Stanis, Plans, Analysis and Integration Office. “It’s essential that we capture feedback from senior leaders and junior enlisted Soldiers within the companies and units and get feedback from family members, veterans, retirees, civilian employees and contractors as well.”

Survey results will be reported separately by the different constituent groups.

“The best way the garrison commander

and directors can get an accurate picture of customer satisfaction and expectations is from maximum participation,” said Stanis.

“For this year’s survey, we will be making a big push to get more feedback from all constituent groups. Their input will enable the garrison leadership to determine where improvements can be made.”

For more information on the 2010 Customer Service Assessment, contact Stanis at DSN 466-2400 or e-mail [annette.stanis@eur.army.mil](mailto:annette.stanis@eur.army.mil).



# Rothenburg ob der Tauber hosts medieval festival



Photos by Rothenburg Tourismus Service



## Imperial City Days offer unique experience

by Rothenburg  
Tourismus Service

*News Release*

From Sept. 3-5, history will come alive in Rothenburg ob der Tauber. Visitors will meet knights, medieval musi-

cians, farmers and riflemen and can enjoy historical music and dance performances, the medieval craftsmen market and riding performances.

Highlights are the torchlight procession of the historical groups on Friday evening,

the fireworks on Saturday and the Sheperds' Dance on Sunday. The weekend promises to be a great experience for the entire family.

For more, visit [www.rothenburg.de](http://www.rothenburg.de) or e-mail [info@rothenburg.de](mailto:info@rothenburg.de).

# Soldier packs her family for deployment

by Sgt. 1st Class  
Christopher DeHart  
*Task Force 12 Public Affairs*

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq – While many young Soldiers join the Army to go new places and get experiences away from home, one aviation Soldier did just that and ended up with her parents serving right alongside her, so to speak.

Spc. Jasmine Mason, a 20-year-old logistics technician with D Company, 5th Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment, Task Force 12, still gets to see and spend time with her parents, especially her mom, despite being deployed to Iraq with her unit.

The Masons work as contractors with KBR and have more time at and familiarity with the base than many Soldiers currently here. This type of work however hasn't stopped them from staying connected with their daughter and has served to make an otherwise typical deployment for Spc. Mason more bearable.

"I have always been close with my mom but we are even closer now," Spc. Mason said, using words that many parents of Soldiers have used to describe how they feel about their own Soldier. "I have a lot more respect for her after seeing how she deals with a place like this. She is really girly so I am proud of her for doing this. I think I am more proud of her than she is of me for dealing with a place like this."

She said her mom, Alberta, just renewed her contract here as an administrative specialist for one of the sections that maintains vehicles on base, adding another three years to her already considerable three years spent at Tallil. Her dad just moved here in June from another camp and works vehicle recovery driving a wrecker. Her mom and dad are both Army veterans and her dad is a retired wheeled vehicle driver who drove for retired Gen. Colin Powell in the 1990s while her mom worked at the Pentagon.

Spc. Mason was born at Fort Belvoir, Va., and raised in Germany while her mom and dad were stationed there. Despite being an Army brat, Spc. Mason said her dad was not initially for her joining the Army.

"When I was about to graduate, I kind of didn't want to go to school yet and a recruiter called me," she said with a slight grin. "I think I did it because of my dad. He didn't want me to join at first. But I did and my mom just signed the papers. I am glad that I made that decision. And he is OK with it now, too."

It was a slight adjustment for Spc. Mason but became one that she was grateful for after being here for a while, especially once she had confirmation that she was going to be working at the same base as her mom.

Mason's unique situation was not something her unit really knew about, outside her supervisor and a few friends. "(The unit) found out at the awards ceremony because they saw someone taking pictures of me and asked who that was," she said. "I said it was my dad. No one else in the unit really knew about it and if they did, they didn't treat her any different for it."

Staff Sgt. Troy Hill, the technical supply noncommissioned officer-in-charge for D Co., 5-159th Avn. Regt., supervises Spc. Mason.

"Spc. Mason is a little unique, but she is a go-getter, quick learner and all-around good Soldier," Hill said.

Spc. Mason is bittersweet about leaving without her parents. They were a great source of strength during the deployment, and she will miss them as she heads back to Virginia.

And what does the future hold? Spc. Mason plans to return to school at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va., once she returns.

## WELCOME HOME HEROES

Rear Detachment Commander Lt. Col. Brad Barker, right, awaits Soldiers from A Company, 2nd Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment, as they march in to a Storck Barracks hangar following their deployment, Aug. 17.

Photo by Ronald H. Toland Jr.



# Garrison supports Workforce Recruitment Program

by Ronald H. Toland Jr.  
*USAG Ansbach Public Affairs*

For the second year in a row, the U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach participated in the Workforce Recruitment Program. The purpose of the program is to provide full-time undergraduate or graduate students with a disability the opportunity to prove their skills and abilities in the workplace through summer employment or to be hired into permanent jobs, said Ruff-Geppert, Equal Employment Opportunity manager for the Ansbach garrison.

"It is an opportunity for managers to fill vacant positions (very often noncompetitively utilizing a special hiring authority) to increase the number of individuals with disabilities in the workforce and it provides the students an opportunity to get on-the-job training," she said.

This year, the garrison hired three students; two worked as general engineers in the Department of Public Works Engineering and Housing Divisions and the third worked as a training technician in the Directorate of Human Resources.

According to the program's website, students must be U.S. citizens and must first contact their school's disability services or career services coordinator to begin the application process at their school. The program runs annually from May 15 through Sept. 30 and guarantees the student 14-weeks of paid employment, with the option of an extension.

As the garrison program coordinator, Ruff-Geppert said the program has provided employment opportunities for over 5,000 students since 1995 and is quite a challenge with

resulting pay-offs.

"Locating suitable and affordable housing for the students has been one of the main challenges to participating in the program the previous year," Geppert said.

She explained that students are required to pay their own way (transportation and other expenses) to live and work in Europe and that the housing chief, along with other garrison staff members, wanted to ensure the students felt at home and were able to adapt to living in an overseas environment.

So in order to do that, there were some challenging hurdles.

"We had to obtain an approved request to temporarily divert 12 unrenovated Army family housing units to unaccompanied personnel housing barracks for incoming single Soldiers," she said.

And with that and the help of other directorates, the students had a place to stay.

"Housing provided beds, living and dining room furniture, stoves and refrigerators, and garrison directors pulled together to accommodate these students by donating additional items to the three-bedroom on-post apartments," said Ruff-Geppert.

Furthermore, it is not an everyday opportunity that one gets to be and work in Germany for approximately seven weeks, have an impact on a mission and do some traveling, too, she added.

WRP student Phillip Webster, who worked at DPW, said the program gives hope to those who find it difficult to prove themselves in society and the workplace despite such challenges — any opportunity to aid in

spreading hope and encouragement is a privilege.

Webster was also able to bring his brother into the program as well.

"The WRP represents freedom to me," said Evan Webster who worked at the garrison's human resources division as a human resources assistant.

"While all employers would like to say that they do not discriminate, it is simply not true — I have witnessed it myself, Evan said. "Most people do not understand the many struggles that people with disabilities encounter, and even fewer recognize the impact that having a disability has in the workforce."

"The WRP alleviates most of these barriers because it not only provides jobs that we would probably not normally attain with such ease, but also provides any assistance that we might need to succeed at that job. This presents a freedom for us to confidently approach the workforce by breaking down the walls of our disability and allows us to chase our dreams more freely," he said.

Evan's colleagues also had success in the program.

"As the economy is continuing its recovery and employment numbers are increasing, an overwhelming 13 million Americans with disabilities — many of them experts in technology — remain unemployed," said Geovani Lopez, who worked at the garrison's housing division.

"I believe this program works to solve these critical social and business issues by providing government agencies with reliable technology talent and giving well-trained individuals with disabilities the chance to display their technical abilities and

enhance their lives through solid careers," he said.

Supervisors say that working with the students has been rewarding and beneficial.

"Having had a brief association with Phillip Webster last year, I was aware of some of the capabilities that he possessed and had the pleasure of working with him in my engineering division this year," said Bill Winslow, chief of the engineering division at the garrison. Winslow put Phillip to work exclusively to develop a computer database program that would finally give Winslow the opportunity to see the status of all current in-progress projects in his division.

"He accepted the challenge of building one from scratch and with a newly hired engineer they worked as a remarkable team to develop this project list program, which is now being used by the entire engineering division," Winslow said.

And that reflects greatly on Phillip.

"Phillip showed a tremendous amount of personal initiative, curiosity and good humor, and he took direction very well," said Winslow. "His efforts have resulted in a first-rate computer program that functions as a valuable tool for the entire staff in the engineering division."

Ruff-Geppert said feedback from other supervisors showed remarkable initiative from the students to take on additional responsibilities beyond their normal assigned duties.

"The program has proven to be beneficial to both the garrison and the students, especially during a time of staff shortages within the garrison," she said.



# Playground replacement highlight of town hall

Story and photo by

**John Reese**

*USAG Garmisch Public Affairs*

The U.S. Army Garrison Garmisch Town Hall, Aug. 19, was better attended than any in recent years, and it wasn't just because of the cake and coffee served after the signing of the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Employee and Customer Covenant.

After the initial presentation by the garrison directorates, the floor was opened to questions. The community brought up a number of them dealing with faulty fire alarms in language school student dorms, water temperature regulation and weak commercial computer connectivity in the housing area, and two issues dealing with children: a place for them to play during the winter months and the status of the kid's playground.

A highlight of the evening was recognizing Amy Ferrareso, a Marine Corps spouse, for her tenacity in calling attention to much-needed upgrades to the Breitenau Housing Area children's playground. After years of patching up the old equipment, the playground was deemed just too unsafe and was shut down. The unsafe equipment was quickly removed, leaving the little ones temporarily without a playground.

"We planned a budget of \$100,000 to just do bits and pieces of repairs, until one resident shined a light on the playground," said garrison housing manager Gaby Furitsch. "With increased focus on the playground we realized it was in worse shape than we thought at first."

The Directorate of Public Works drew up some plans for the extended scope of the project, and spouse representatives from each apartment building were solicited for input and did some redesigning. The end result

tripled the cost to make the area safe and welcoming. The old equipment was removed and the \$300,000 was transferred to the Army Corps of Engineers. The upgrades are expected to be completed by October.

Meanwhile, playgrounds at the Garmisch Elementary/Middle School, Child Development Center and Edelweiss Lodge and Resort campgrounds are all opened to the smallest residents during the downtime.

"Marc Jannsen, the manager of the Edelweiss, noted we've all teamed up to bridge the time," said Furitsch.

Col. Vann Smiley, on his first official visit to Garmisch since assuming command of USAG Grafenwoehr, actively participated in the Town Hall. Together with Command Sgt. Maj. William Berrios, the two leaders interacted with audience and resolved to help find solutions to issues of concern.

"It was a great turnout and one of the ways we keep the community informed," said Garmisch Garrison Manager Karin Santos. "This is how we find out what is going on in the community."

After the Q-and-A, FMWR customer service coordinator Channa Ringo provided a community brief on the Employee and Customer Covenant, which is a dedicated FMWR program to better position employees for success in serving their customers.

"This covenant embodies a promise of excellence to both employees and customers," said Ringo.

The program is centrally funded and will help the Garmisch FMWR staff in implementing, monitoring and sustaining the standardized enterprise program. The covenant's intent is to increase customer participation and satisfaction, increase employee job satisfaction, retain high-performing employees, and sustain employee



**Karin Santos, U.S. Army Garrison Garmisch manager, listens intently as Col. Vann Smiley, U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr commander, makes the point during the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Employee and Customer Covenant signing ceremony, Aug. 19, that everyone at the Town Hall is a customer of FMWR. The event was better attended than any in recent years.**

engagement and commitment, explained Ringo before reading both promises to the employees and customers.

It is important FMWR retain good, experienced employees and

give them a career, Ringo added.

FMWR director Sharon Glazewski, the newest member of the Garmisch team, signed the covenant along with Santos, Smiley and Berrios.

As the longer-than-usual Town Hall

wound down over refreshments, Smiley took the opportunity to meet individually with community members.

"These are the people who make things happen," said Smiley. "They took the time to be here tonight."

## Labor Day weekend is sportsfest time

by USAG Garmisch Public Affairs

*News Release*

Labor Day Weekend is family sportsfest weekend in Garmisch, and it isn't too late to participate! The 25th Annual Fat Tire Spectacular, the Garmisch Cross Country Challenge, and the Bike to the Beer Bike Ride have all been combined for a weekend of Alpine fun.

Beginning the afternoon of Friday, Sept. 3, an ice-breaker, check-in and race number pick-up for all three events takes place at Kean's Lodge on Krammer Mountain. This is an opportunity to mingle, catch-up with friends over refreshments, and inspect the course, with bike and helmet if you prefer.

Saturday morning is the Fat Tire, one of the oldest mountain bike races in Germany created a quarter century ago by American enthusiasts. Not much has changed about the location; for example, you may still encounter a "cow-stau" delaying the race. The track, however, is different every year with new challenges. For the adults, that's five laps around a 5k loop of roots, gravel, shrubbery and mud, a third uphill, a third downhill, and a third technical single track. If you missed the icebreaker, you can still check-in late



beginning at 8 a.m. The race is divided into age groups from under 10 to adults. There'll be other games you can sign up for on the spot, too, like the trials contest, "tractor pull," hill climb and Huffy toss.

After the race there will be a casual barbecue, suds and at press time a band was in the works but not yet guaranteed. If you've never experienced the panoramic beauty of the Bavarian Alps from Kean's Lodge, the social mixer after the race is well worth the trip to Garmisch.

Sunday is both the Garmisch Challenge Cross Country Run and an athletic version of the well-received Brewery of the Month Club.

The cross country run is five kilometers of challenging terrain. Two 2.5k laps with a total elevation of 251 meters over rolling terrain with steep descents and ascents; runners are encouraged to check the course prior the event, as it truly is a challenge. Perpetual awards go to the best overall male and female competitors with the winners' names engraved on a cup displayed in the Mueller Fitness Center. The awards ceremony will take place immediately after the race.

Finally, if you're into the fine craft of Bavarian brewing and you have your bicycle with you, the Alpine Experts at Garmisch Outdoor Recreation have created a hybrid event that keeps the theme of the weekend: a guided bike ride north to the beautiful city of Murnau, home to the famous painter Wassily Kandisky and the awesome Greisbraue brew-pub. The one-way ride includes a sag-wagon support, i.e. you ride there and ODR brings you and your bike back that evening. This event meets at the Pete Burke Center at 2 p.m. It is possible to do both the cross country run and the Brewery of the Month.

Interested? Sign up in person at ODR or call the Alpine Experts at DSN 440-2638, CIV 08821-750-2638.

## Martin lifts a win



*Photo by Aryn Lockhart*

**Matthias Martin of Garmisch lifts his way through a day of heavy rains to first place in the 105-kilogram category and second place overall in the Hagebau Strongman Cup in Vilsbiburg. Martin, the spouse of Aryn Lockhart, senior visual information specialist at the George C. Marshall Center, participated in challenges like the Viking Press, a 75-second overhead repetition press of 242 pounds, and the Farmer's Walk, where athletes carried two, 242-pound suitcases for 50 meters.**

"Even though it was pouring down buckets, all 15 athletes stuck together and enjoyed what they love to do. The passion of being a strongman drives you no matter how bad the weather is," said Martin, who hopes to bring the competition to U.S. Army Europe. "Being a strongman is not just a sport, it's a lifestyle."

**USAG Garmisch - Load Security Training**  
**Wednesday, Sept. 29, in Bldg. 253 on Artillery Kaserne**  
**9-11:30 a.m. (English)**  
**1-3:30 p.m. (German)**

*We are the Army's home*

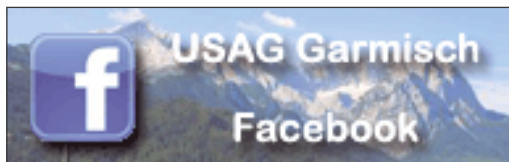
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For details, see the information sheet at [www.garmisch.army.mil](http://www.garmisch.army.mil)



U.S. Army Garrison Garmisch now has a Facebook page. Current, relevant and getting a lot of hits from community members past and present, this family-friendly page is the first social networking site for the garrison.

In just two weeks, the page took off like wild-fire and continues growing daily. Share your best Garmisch photos and learn about what's going on in the local scene.

To join the conversation, go to [www.facebook.com/USAG.Garmisch](http://www.facebook.com/USAG.Garmisch), or type USAG Garmisch in the Facebook search bar. You can also access the page directly from the link on [www.garmisch.army.mil](http://www.garmisch.army.mil) homepage.

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# Warrior Zone coming to Ledward Barracks

by Nathan Van Schaik  
*USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs*

Renovation of a state of the art multipurpose facility geared toward single Soldiers is scheduled to be completed by Nov. 26, on Ledward Barracks. The new center, known as the Warrior Zone, will include a bar, kitchen, a lounge, flat screen TVs, pool tables and several gaming stations among other amenities aimed at taking the edge off of the rigors of life in the Army.

“The concept is to give single Soldiers a place with high-tech equipment like Internet and gaming and give them a place to relax and socialize,” said Silvia Joiner, the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation advisor to the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program in Schweinfurt.

The new Warrior Zone will replace Rohr’s Diner on Ledward Barracks while Rohr’s café will remain open, according to Dave Luellwitz, Schweinfurt’s business and recreation division chief. The facility’s official title, the Spc. Ross A. McGinnis Warrior Zone, was chosen in honor of the Schweinfurt Soldier who died in battle posthumously earning him the Medal of Hon-

or in 2008.

The idea of the Warrior Zone was conceived as a result of Soldier surveys conducted across the Army, said Luellwitz. Ten BOSS focus groups from both stateside and outside the continental U.S. representing all ranks developed the “Warrior Zone” concept in an effort to deliver recreation services and programs to single Soldiers.

Though Schweinfurt’s Warrior Zone will not be the first of its kind — there are facilities at Army garrisons in Heidelberg, Wiesbaden, Kaiserslautern and Grafenwoehr, for example — its reputation as a top-notch hangout precedes its grand opening later this year.

“It’s been a huge success,” said Paul Rosarius, the business manager for the Warrior Zone in Heidelberg, which opened its doors in March earlier this year. “We have between 20 to 30 Soldiers in the morning and anywhere from 40 to 100 come in at night. All the facilities are in use.” In fact, Rosarius and his staff are even looking to expand operation hours because Soldiers would like to have it open longer to better meet their needs.

The key feature of a Warrior Zone is its technology,



**Proposed design for the bar at the Schweinfurt Warrior Zone scheduled for completion Nov. 26, at Ledward Barracks.**

said Joiner. It will boast wireless Internet, live action video, online multiplayer competitions, home theater viewing and advanced sound systems. In addition to these notable features, the facility will cater to communitywide events, host live entertainment as well as facilitate special interest groups, classes, competitions and other activities.

The Warrior Zone and all its amenities will come at no cost except for food and beverages which fall under the “pay-as-you-go” category.

The target audience is single and unaccompanied Soldiers, but will be open to all military personnel. Service members may sponsor one



*Courtesy photos*

**Proposed design of the furniture and recreation area at the Warrior Zone scheduled for completion Nov. 26, at Ledward Barracks. The new center, known as the Spc. Ross A. McGinnis Warrior Zone, will include a bar, kitchen, a lounge, flat screen TVs, pool tables and several gaming stations among other amenities aimed at taking the edge off of the rigors of life in the Army.**

adult guest, 18 years of age or older, said Joiner.

Though operation hours have not been finalized, Joiner explained that she aims to keep it open longer than the Finney Recreation Center located on Conn Barracks.

“The plan is to keep it open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and until

midnight on weekends,” she said.

For Soldiers who regularly use the Single Soldier center at Finney, the opening of a Warrior Zone is a welcome change for Soldiers, especially those living in the barracks on Ledward.

“I think Soldiers will use it, especially new Soldiers and

those people who want to stay on post,” said Pfc. Trevor Jenke of A Company, 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, and Finney Rec Center regular.

“Less people will get in trouble off post,” added Pfc. Charity Gaze of A Co., 44th ESB. “Also, for Soldiers who drink, it’s safer to drink on post and closer to the barracks.”

## Soldiers conquer Ironman Triathlon

by Jasmine Morales  
*USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs*

Two Schweinfurt Soldiers competed and finished what is known as one of the most difficult Ironman Triathlon competitions on Earth, Aug. 1, in Bolton, United Kingdom.

“I always wanted to do it,” said Capt. Wade Farrar, executive officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 9th Engineer Battalion.

“It was awesome to hear the announcer say ‘Wade Farrar, you are an Ironman’ after crossing the finish line,” said Farrar with a big grin.

“It was the least amount of pain that I had experienced in about nine hours,” said Capt. Renee A. Rysiewicz, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 172nd Support Battalion, after 12 weeks of intensive training with her boyfriend Farrar.

Organized by the World Triathlon Corporation, an Ironman Triathlon is one of a series of long-distance triathlon races consisting of a 2.4-mile swim, a 112-mile bike ride and a full length marathon, a 26.2-mile run, in that order and without a break.

With cold weather and plenty of rain, Farrar crossed the finish line in 13 hours and 27 minutes, Rysiewicz in 15 hours and 19 minutes, both conquering their first Ironman.

With approximately 1,400 others competing, the swimming portion of the competition was no Olympic event.

“I finished the swim event in one hour and eight minutes,” said Farrar with Rysiewicz coming in right behind him at 1:21.

“It’s rough. The water we swam in was so murky we couldn’t see our hands in front of our face,” said Farrar. “You’re pushing each other and people are grabbing your ankles, trying to survive and get going.”

Every second counts during an Ironman Triathlon and the speed in which you move in-between each event can make all the difference.

“You’re ripping your wetsuit off while running 200 meters to the bike transition station, get all your bike gear on and go,” said Farrar.

Riding for seven hours and 32 minutes, traveling 112 miles and reaching speeds of up to 38 miles per hour, Farrar was counting the minutes to start running.

Rysiewicz, just one hour behind, finished her bike race with a time of eight hours and 24 minutes.

“When I came out the gate to start running I was so excited,” said Farrar.

“I was running eight-minute miles for the first four



*Courtesy photo*

**Capt. Wade Farrar (left), executive officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 9th Engineer Battalion, and Capt. Renee Rysiewicz, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 172nd Support Battalion, take a breather after defeating their first Ironman Triathlon competition, Aug. 1, in Bolton, United Kingdom.**

miles, after that I hit the wall.”

The worst part was running up sheep hill and having to run around the sheep, said Farrar who finished the run in four hours and 20 minutes.

“The worst part was that you saw the finish line at the first turn around point, about 10 miles into the marathon,” said Rysiewicz. “Seeing it, again, no matter how terrible you felt before the last stretch, you had to smile after five hours and 10 minutes of running.”

To train, the boyfriend-girlfriend duo downloaded a beginner’s Ironman training agenda from the Internet. Their training originally scheduled for 20 weeks — was consolidated to 12 weeks due to time limitation.

Having never participated in a triathlon, Wade and Rysiewicz signed up for a half Ironman, an Olympic distance and sprint distance half way through the training.

During the race, all Ironman participants wore a chip wrapped around their ankle to help track their location via the event website throughout the competition.

“I thought it was cool, during the race my mom could track my location on the events website, so she knew how far along I was in the race and when I crossed the finish line,” said Farrar.

## Children ‘cast off’ at VBS

by Eva Bergmann  
*USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs*

“Cast off” was the motto at Ledward Chapel when this year’s Vacation Bible School got underway, Aug. 8. Themed the “High Seas,” the program, opened to children age 4 to 10, aimed at teaching fundamental Christian values and how to live them with confidence.

After starting each morning off in song, children were divided into four groups taking turns at different activity stations, where instructors discussed the meaning of Bible verses and stories.

“The program teaches the kids Bible lessons through drama/theatre, vision and acoustic learning, crafts for fine motor skills or ‘ship-rec’ games for gross motor skills,” explained VBS director Patricia Wiedemer. “Regardless, whether your child is an audio-learner or visual learner, a tactile learner, an intellectual learner, each aspect will be stimulated during the day, so that every child leaves saying ‘I learned something today.’”

The multiage groups fit the mold of a natural family by providing children with an environment of younger and older playmates and placing them in different roles.

“The bigger kids just love having the little brothers and sisters,” said Wiedemer, noting that most of the participating kids come from smaller families. “Often, they are far away from cousins and uncles and aunts. We don’t have that large-family feeling, especially here in the military and they love it.”

Besides the beneficial interaction with each other, children also received specific tasks they executed on behalf of their crews. Some were material managers or guides and some were the designated reader or prayer speaker.

“Each child has a role within the group,” said Wiedemer, highlighting the feeling of self value and confidence this concept instills in the children. “Everybody pulls the rope and everybody is important.”

A special task several children fulfilled was demonstrating new song motions for the other children. One



*Photo by Elizabeth Cable*

**During the program children rotate through several stations, where instructors discuss with them the meaning of various Bible verses and stories.**

praise group had already trained before VBS started.

“We learned the songs before anyone else, the week before vacation Bible school,” explained Amethyst Mason. “We perform every day with the songs to the whole group and that’s how everybody else learns.”

Amethyst enjoyed this task, which suited her talent and interests very well. She also appreciated the new friends she found and the opportunity to share her belief with others.

Wiedemer emphasized the significance of how volunteers have been involved with Vacation Bible School, both past and present. They, too, were children and grew within such programs, dealt with authority and developed independence and assertiveness.

“They may never use these skills in a church anymore, they may go out and be executives or leaders,” explained Wiedemer. “I’ve been involved with Vacation Bible School since 1996 and some of the kids you met on one PCS rotation when they were 3 or 4 and now come back as a young man and he’s taking over leadership roles.”

“It’s a joy to see that,” she added. “To experience and to know this was an integral part of their lives informing them to become confident, young, strong adults.”



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# US, NATO combine forces in Allied Strike

by **Spc. John W. Herrick**  
126 Press Camp Headquarters,  
Michigan Army National Guard

The U.S. and NATO combined training event, Allied Strike-10, emphasizes the importance of joint and combined close air support missions, while highlighting the role allied nations bring to the battlefield in current theaters of operation.

The 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, based out of Hohenfels, Germany, assisted in the event as mock combatants to increase the realism of the exercise. However, much of the training was a joint effort by Airmen and multinational forces.

"The main purpose of the exercise was to provide a comprehensive training environment with allied nations, which assesses our close air support effectiveness, all in a graduate-level venue with a focus on Joint Terminal Attack Controllers (JTACS)," said Air Force Lt. Col. Jon Berry, 4th Air Support Operations Group Director of Operations and Allied Strike 10 exercise director.

The Joint Multinational Training Command (JMTC) in Grafenwoehr provided participating units a fully integrated all domain training venue, using organic support systems and facilities to train forces and leaders to dominate in full spectrum operations.

The two -week event also allowed NATO allied forces, such as Germany, Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands and Portugal the opportunity to train side-by-side with American service members in specific training lanes. Combat relevant items such as urban operations, convoy training, tactical operations center conduct and live close air support ordnance drops from U.S.-allied aircraft were conducted. Additional training opportunities which further enhanced combat effectiveness included the Combat Life Saver course, M-4/M-9 weapons qualification training, Leadership Reaction Course and the obstacle course. Also key was the deliberate inclusion of support personnel during all facets of training to provide a multi-faceted and realistic training environment.

"The intent of exercise Allied Strike 10 was to provide robust and realistic close air support training that helps build partnership capacity among allied NATO nations in a joint /combined environment while refining the latest operational tactics, techniques and procedures. We want to train here, so we can better provide close air support for Soldiers and coalition force members in Afghanistan and Iraq," said Air Force Lt. Col. Michael McManus, 4th Air Operations



Photo by Capt. Charles Calio

**First Sgt. Maj. Jordy Van Kerckhove, an infantryman with the Belgium army, calls in close air support as part of a joint multinational exercise Allied Strike-10. The Belgium army, along with service members from Germany, Portugal, Denmark and the Netherlands, worked alongside U.S. Army and Air Force units in Grafenwoehr as part of Europe's premier close air support exercise.**

Support Squadron commander, who also directs the Air Support Operations Center that provided the command and control node for Allied Strike 10.

Another aspect of training focused on the Air Force's J-TACS and multinational equivalents. JTACs are specially trained combat airmen aligned with Army units with the mission of advising and integrating airpower into the ground scheme of maneuver. Among other things, they provide vital information and timely intelligence from the battlefield to the Joint Tactical Operations Center, ensuring close air support capabilities and ordnance are delivered on time and on target.

"This exercise highlights the criticality of what close air support brings to the battlefield, and is among the most dangerous working environments in which an airman may operate. Our JTACs are very close to where our planes are dropping bombs and firing their guns, meaning their lives and the soldiers they are with rely on pinpoint accuracy under fire

as airstrikes are called in," said Berry.

Originally, when Allied Strike-10 started three years ago it was much smaller, but since its inception it has grown exponentially. According to Lt. Col. Berry, he has seen a 27 percent participant growth. It also has other countries wanting to take part in the exercise.

"Nine other countries have expressed interest in being participants in this training, and I think that shows what we are doing is effective," said Berry.

While future Allied Strike exercises are still being discussed, it is obvious that airmen and multinational forces are benefitting from the training with each other. They work countless hours in sometimes harsh environments, so that one day when they're needed they'll be ready.

"Allied Strike-10 is an awesome training exercise. It requires a great deal of time and coordination over many miles. It proves to be a great resource for our troops in theater who rely heavily on close air support," said McManus.



Photo by Spc. Tegan Kucera

**Smoke rises after a Belgium F-16 dropped an explosive during Allied Strike 10. Six NATO nations including the United States participated in the annual exercise.**

## Voting is a civic duty that remains while overseas

Continued from page 2

days before the general election; and

Have not received the requested regular absentee ballot from the state.

An online version is also available at [www.fvap.gov/resources/media/fwab.pdf](http://www.fvap.gov/resources/media/fwab.pdf), which must be completed, printed, signed, dated, and mailed to your local election official.

Check out your state's instructions to determine your state specific instructions, witness/notary requirements for voted ballots, deadlines, and mailing addresses.

### Soldiers and their family members

Q: Can I vote absentee?

A: You can vote absentee in local, state and federal elections if you are a U.S. citizen 18 years or older and are an active duty member of the armed forces, merchant marine, Public Health Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, a family member of any of these groups, or a U.S. citizen residing outside the U.S.

Q: Where is my "legal voting residence?"

A: For voting purposes, "legal voting residence" can be the state or territory where you last resided prior to entering military service OR the state or territory that you have since claimed as your legal residence.

Even though you may no longer maintain formal ties to that residence, the address determines your proper voting jurisdiction. To claim a new legal residence, you must have simultaneous physical presence and the intent to return to that location as your primary residence.

Military and their family members may change their legal residence every time they change permanent duty stations, or they may retain their legal residence without change. Consult a Judge Advocate General officer or legal counsel before making such a decision.

Q: My family members are not in the military. Can they also vote absentee?

Yes. Eligible spouses and children (U.S. citizens, 18 years or older) of military

personnel may vote absentee. Some states allow children of military personnel residing overseas who are U.S. citizens but who have never resided in the U.S. to claim one of their U.S. citizen parent's legal state of residence as their own. Check out the FVAP list of states that allow this.

Q: How do I register to vote or request an absentee ballot?

A: You may register and request an absentee ballot with a single form: The Federal Post Card Application. This application form is accepted by all states and territories and is postage-paid in the U.S. mail, including the Military Postal System and State Department Pouch mail. Hard copies of the form can be obtained from your organization or installation's Voting Assistance Officer; a complete list follows these FAQs.

An online version of the Voter Registration/Absentee Ballot Request form is also available. The online version of the form must be mailed in an envelope with proper

postage, or mailed using our prepaid return envelope.

Your Voter Registration/Absentee Ballot Request form must be completed, printed, signed, dated and mailed directly to your local election official.

Q: Can I vote in person where I am stationed?

A: Service members may vote in the U.S. state or territory where stationed if they change their legal residence to that state or territory, even if they live on a military installation. Be advised that there may be legal obligations, such as taxation, if you change your state of residence. Consult a Judge Advocate General officer or legal counsel before making such a decision.

### Overseas civilians

Q: Can I vote absentee?

A: You can vote absentee in any election for federal office if you are a U.S. citizen 18 years or older and are a U.S. citizen residing outside the United States.

Q: If I do not maintain a legal residence in the U.S., what is my "legal state of

residence?"

A: Your "legal state of residence" for voting purposes is the state or territory where you last resided immediately prior to your departure from the United States. This applies to overseas citizens even though you may not have property or other ties in your last state of residence and your intent to return to that state may be uncertain.

When completing block 3 of the Voter Registration/Absentee Ballot Request form, be sure to enter the entire mailing address of your last residence, including rural route and number. That address determines your proper voting jurisdiction.

Some states allow children of U.S. citizens residing overseas who are U.S. citizens but who have never resided in the U.S., to claim one of their parent's legal state of residence as their own.

For additional frequently asked questions and information, visit [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov), or contact your unit's voting officer.

## Courts-martial proceedings released

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convened in Ansbach, Aug. 2, Sgt. Douglas Herrera-Duran, 2-159th Aviation Battalion (Rear, Provisional), plead guilty to one specification of drunken operation of a vehicle causing injury for a Feb. 15 vehicle accident in which a German citizen was severely injured (Article 111). The military judge sentenced Herrera-Duran to be reduced to the grade of private first class (E3), to forfeit \$500.00 per month for five months, and to be confined for 179 days. In accordance with his pretrial agreement, the convening authority will disapprove any confinement in excess of 120 days.

At a general court-martial, July 20, Spc. Nathaniel J. Conquy, 1st Squadron (Rear, Provisional), 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment (Rear, Provisional), plead guilty to one specification of possessing 193 digital images of child pornography, which conduct was of a nature to bring discredit upon the armed forces (Article 134). The military judge sentenced him to be confined for six months and to receive a bad-conduct discharge.

At a general court-martial convened in Schweinfurt, July 16, Sgt. Benito Nievespabon, Service Battery, 1-77 Field Artillery, 172nd Infantry Brigade, plead not guilty to one specification of violating a lawful general regulation for driving with a suspended license (Article 92), one specification of false official statement (Article 107), two specifications of larceny for stealing BAH entitlements and for stealing jewelry from AAFES (Article 121), and one specification of forgery (Article 123). An enlisted panel found Nievespabon guilty of all charges and specifications and sentenced him to be reduced to the grade of private (E1), to forfeit all pay and allowances, to be confined for 12 years, and to receive a dishonorable discharge.

At a general court-martial, June 16, Sgt. Jermaine H. Nash, Supply and Transportation Troop, Regimental Support Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment (Rear, Provisional), plead not guilty to one specification of false official statement (Article 107), one specification of aggravated sexual contact (Article 120), one specification of larceny (Article 121), and one specification of assault (Article 128). An enlisted panel found Nash guilty of wrongful sexual contact (a lesser included offense of aggravated sexual contact) and wrongful appropriation (a lesser included offense of larceny). The panel found him not guilty of false official statement and assault. The panel sentenced Nash to be reduced to the grade of specialist (E4), to forfeit \$1,146 pay per month for four months, and to be confined for 30 days.

At a general court-martial, June 11, Pfc. Mack J. Miller II, G Company, 3rd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment (Rear, Provisional), plead guilty to one specification of desertion with intent to avoid hazardous duty (Article 85). The military judge sentenced him to be reduced to the grade of private (E1), to be confined for 18 months, and to receive a bad-conduct discharge.

At a general court-martial, June 3, Sgt. Dwayne D. White, 574th Quartermaster Supply Company, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (Rear, Provisional), plead guilty to two specifications of larceny for stealing BAH entitlements (Article 121), two specifications of false official statement (Article 107), and one specification of absence without leave (Article 86). The military judge sentenced White to be reduced to the grade of private (E1), to forfeit all pay and allowances, to be confined for 13 months, and to receive a bad-conduct discharge.

*Editor's Note: Unless otherwise specified, courts-martial were convened in Vilseck, Germany.*



# The puck doesn't stop here



Chris Glascott defends.



James Hathaway takes a shot.



Marvin Pfingsten (left) and Kraig Hays battle at the Weiden Eis Stadion, Aug. 25.

Right: Two players take a breather during practice, Aug. 25. The Bayern Rangers will hold weekly practices as they gear up for the 2011 U.S. Air Forces in Europe Ice Hockey Championship in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Jan. 20-22. Players interested in joining or supporting the team can contact coach Brad Huestis (brad.huestis@us.army.mil) or search using "Bayern Rangers" on Facebook.



Photos by Jeremy S. Buddemeier

# Partnership reinforces bridges

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experiences from operations across the globe.

"Training with them has been a great experience for me, across the board," said Spc. Jonathan Smals, 9th Eng. Bn., 172nd Inf. Bde. "I have a lot of experience I can bring to the table for them, and they have a lot to bring to the table for me to learn from."

Smals returned less than a year ago from a combat deployment to Iraq where he piloted an M-9 Armored Combat Earthmover for the 172nd Inf. Bde.

From its end of the table, the 701st Panzer Pioneer Bn. brought its experience from operations in Afghanistan, where it was the first Bundeswehr engineer battalion to serve 12 consecutive months as part of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force.

Ultimately, the success of operations in the modern world requires partnership training between nations. "No one goes it alone," said Ambassador Murphy. "The more closely, the more frequent our training, the more we will be able to succeed in trying situations like Afghanistan."

Murphy said the capabilities of the 172nd Inf. Bde. and other European-based units like it are critical to continuing this sort of training. He added that the partnership training shown by the 172nd Inf. Bde. is a great example of the benefits.

# Retired leaders worry recruits 'Too Fat to Fight'

by Alexandra Hemmerly-Brown  
*Army News Service*

WASHINGTON — A study initiated by more than 100 retired generals and admirals claims that being overweight or obese is the leading medical reason why potential recruits fail to qualify for military service.

The group, which calls itself "Mission: Readiness," released its study in April. The report, called "Too Fat to Fight," outlines how America's obesity statistics are seen by some as a security threat. The study calls on Congress to pass nutrition legislation to remove junk food from schools and clean up the quality of lunchroom meals.

"Child obesity has become so serious in this country that military leaders are viewing this epidemic as a potential threat to our national security," retired Gen. Johnnie E. Wilson wrote in the report.

According to the study, the number of states with 40 percent or more of their young adults who were overweight or obese went from one to 39 in 10 years. Also, 75 percent of Americans aged 17-24 are ineligible for military service because of their weight, educational status or criminal history.

"Over the past 30 years, while adult rates of obesity have doubled, childhood obesity rates have tripled," states the report.

And while current recruiting quotas are being met, some military leaders worry that the shrinking pool of eligible potential service members will cause problems for future generations.

"If you stood up 10 17-24 year-olds in a room, less than three would be eligible to come in," said Maj. Gen. Don Campbell, commanding general of U.S. Army Recruiting Command.

Campbell, who is responsible for keeping recruiting numbers up



Photo by Spc. Mike MacLeod

**Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Bower, a truck driver assigned to Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division, grades pushups for Spc. Andrew Duncan, a satellite communications operator, during an Army Physical Fitness Test at Camp Ramadi, Iraq. Physical fitness is one criterion that Soldiers must meet to enroll in the Noncommissioned Officers Education System schools.**

throughout the Army, said rising obesity rates worry him as a citizen. But, he said, troop levels are not yet being affected.

Campbell said he focuses on holding his recruiters to the highest standard, so potential enlistees have something to look up to.

"It's a challenge that all the services are facing now and will continue to face in the future," Campbell said.

But recruiters don't seem to be feeling the effects of overweight applicants — yet.

Staff Sgt. Patrick A. Derr, a recruiter in Springfield, Va., said he turns away one or two potential Soldiers per week for being overweight, but that number seems commonplace throughout his occupation.

Derr said in his nearly three years as a recruiter, he hasn't noticed an uptick in overweight applicants and that he's not worried that recruiting quotas will be hard to meet in the future.

He said those who have enlisted in the Army but need to get into better shape before shipping to basic training are invited to participate in a future Soldier physical fitness training program where tips on diet and exercise are given. However, Derr said, recruiters are not doctors or personal trainers, and can only give suggestions.

"The biggest thing is their willingness to continue and to work out on their own," Derr said of applicants losing weight. "Even if they exercise with us a few times per week, they

still need to work out on their own."

Sgt. 1st Class Donald J. Gallagher, a recruiter in Altoona, Pa., said the national obesity percentages don't concern him very much either.

"It's hard to say whether it will become a problem or not," Gallagher said. "The statistics are there ... but through the hard work of recruiters we'll always be able to keep our Army supplied with qualified people."

Gallagher, a recruiter for two years, said the rural location of his recruiting station may be why he rarely has to turn away applicants for being overweight.

"Everyone here is into sports," he explained.

While he agrees that America is becoming more obese as a nation, Gallagher believes that those who need to can cut the weight to join — if they are motivated.

Lyndsey N. Clark, from Charlotte, Tenn., recently did just that: the 18-year-old dropped 80 pounds to meet the Army's height and weight requirements.

Clark, who graduated from high school in May and will be shipping to basic training Oct. 19, said she started losing weight about 10 months ago to meet her goal of joining the Army.

Clark said she met with recruiters weekly who helped her with diet and exercise, and would give her suggestions when her weight loss plateaued.

"It's not impossible," Clark said. "If you're motivated and really want it, it's not impossible. You just need to believe in yourself."

But will recruiters be hard-pressed to keep numbers up when the job market improves as some critics have suggested?

"A failing economy is no formula for filling the ranks of a strong military," retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Norman R. Seip says in the report. "These longer-term eligibility problems are not going away."

# Housing office has answers

Continued from page 1  
of the landlord-tenant relationship is that of a contract.

The landlord must provide a housing unit that is safe, secure and up to building code, and must also respect the privacy and quiet enjoyment of the unit by the tenant.

The tenant must pay rent on time and maintain the premises in a sanitary and safe condition. Tenants cannot create a public nuisance or engage in disruptive or illegal behaviors. If there are specific clauses in the written lease, the tenant must abide by them unless those clauses are in conflict with German law.

All housing contracts for off-post housing are provided in both English and German and it is important for a tenant to read the contract in its entirety, regardless of how painful that may seem. Potential tenants should seek advice and ask questions if the housing contract is not clear.

"It is our policy to inform the public," said Robert Massey, chief of the Grafenwoehr Housing Division. "With proper coordination and communication, the relationship between landlord and tenant can be a comfortable business venture."

It is the responsibility of both landlord and tenant to understand the law and rights of each party.

German law states tenants must give three months notice before vacating the premises and landlords may not have a key to the rented unit, unless specified by the tenant. Landlords are required to respect the privacy of the tenant and entering the home without permission is considered trespassing and punishable by the German law.

If a conflict arises, knowing the law and rights of each party will ease the process and expedite a resolve.

"There are certain issues that cannot be mended, but most can be resolved without taking drastic measure," said Benkert. "And the housing office can provide that guidance."

Visit the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr website, [www.grafenwoehr.army.mil](http://www.grafenwoehr.army.mil), for up-to-date news, events, contact information and much more.